

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER

APPOINTED

TO INQUIRE HOW FAR IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO EXTEND
THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACTS FOR THE
BETTER REGULATION

OF

MILLS AND FACTORIES

TO

BLEACHING WORKS

ESTABLISHED IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND;

WITH THE

EVIDENCE AND APPENDIX.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1855.

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COMMISSION.

VICTORIA R.

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Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith: To Our trusty and well-beloved Hugh Seymour Trevellick, Esquire; Greeting:

Whereas it appears to Us expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue, for the Purpose of making due Inquiry how far it may be advisable to extend the Provisions of the Acts for the better Regulation of Mills and Factories to Bleaching Works established in certain Parts of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: Now know ye, that We, being well satisfied of your Zeal and Ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these Presents authorize and appoint, you, the said Hugh Seymour Trevellick, to be Our Commissioner for the Purposes aforesaid.

And We do also give and grant to you full Power and Authority to call before you such Persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any Information upon the subject of this Our Commission, and to inquire of and concerning the Premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

And We do by these Presents will and ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you Our said Commissioner may from Time to Time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every Matter and Thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from Time to Time by Adjournment.

And Our further Will and Pleasure is, that you, Our said Commissioner, upon due Inquiry into the Premises, do report to Us in Writing, under your Hand and Seal, your several Proceedings under and by virtue of this Our Commission, together with what you shall find touching or concerning the Premises.

And We further ordain, that you may have Liberty to report to Us your Proceedings under this Our Commission from Time to Time, should you judge it expedient so to do.

Given at Our Court at Saint James's, the Thirtieth Day of November 1854, in the Eighteenth Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
(Signed) G. GREY.

REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased to appoint me Your Majesty's Commissioner to inquire how far it may be advisable to extend the Provisions of the Acts for the better Regulation of Mills and Factories to Bleaching Works established in certain Portions of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I humbly beg to submit to Your Majesty the result of my inquiries in the following Report.

REPORT RELATING TO THE BLEACHING, FINISHING, AND DYEING ESTABLISHMENTS FOR COTTON GOODS, IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

THE principal seat of the business of bleaching the various kinds of cotton cloth, and muslins, is at and in the immediate neighbourhood of Bolton in Lancashire.

The occupations of "finishing," and also of dyeing, are so intimately connected, in so many cases, with those of bleaching, that it was essential to comprehend them in this inquiry.

In the town of Manchester there are several establishments for finishing and dyeing, and in and near the adjoining town of Salford there are similar establishments, and also others for the bleaching, finishing, and dyeing of fastens and other varieties of cotton goods.

The bleaching process for cotton goods, which used formerly to be performed in the open air and upon the grass (as is still the case to a great extent in the bleaching of linen, in Scotland and Ireland), is now effected by chemical agents and by machinery under cover.

The principal processes incidental to the bleaching, are marking with the needle the pieces of cloth with the initials or some private mark of the owner; sewing or pasting the ends of several pieces together, to facilitate their being taken through most of the subsequent processes by machinery; and passing these pieces so sewn together over hot plates or jets of gas, to singe off the small useless fibres, which latter process is called "dressing."

All the processes which cotton goods are put through by the bleacher subsequently to the mere bleaching, are termed "finishing," and consist principally of mangling, drying, "calendering," or passing under rollers, and "hooking," or otherwise folding preparatory to the pieces of cloth being "made up" into the form in which they are seen in the hands of the shop-keeper, with a label or stamp, or the name of the firm, pasted or impressed upon them. Several of these pieces are then put together in packages, and in that form are sent to their destination.

When the goods are dyed by the bleacher, or by a separate dyer, the dyeing process is also considered as a part of the "finishing," and both bleachers and dyers aim at producing a "finish" to goods, white or coloured, which shall recommend them to their customers, and if possible make them indispensable to the latter for the particular kind of "finish," for which they have acquired a name. The merit of this "finish" consists in the particular gloss or particular appearance which the bleacher or dyer can give to the particular kind and quality of cloth, coarse or fine, which is sent to him in the grey state, and is prepared either bleached or coloured for the home or foreign market.

Goods for the home market require more care, and the bleacher or dyer demands more time from the merchant to execute an order than he does in preparing a similar order for the foreign market.

The bleacher and the dyer are, as respects the material upon which they have to operate, in a different position from that of the factory owner. The latter works upon his own materials, and can exercise his option as to whether he will buy more or less, and whether, when trade is not promising, he will continue purchasing cotton and converting it into cloth, i.e., whether he will "work to stock". The bleacher, and finisher, and dyer are, in nearly all cases, as they term it, merely "the servants of the public," i.e., of the merchants who purchase the grey cloth, and send it to be prepared according to their own opinion of the demands of the various markets, or according to the commissions to purchase which they receive from their correspondents at home and abroad.

The females and boys are employed principally in the finishing and making up departments.

Boys and a few females are also employed in the bleaching and dyeing processes, or in the operations incidental thereto.

The question to be determined is, are the hours of work injuriously long for females and boys in these departments of labour? If they are, can they be shortened, and to what extent, without endangering the prosperity of those important branches of business?

The facts, as respects the actual hours worked at the bleaching and finishing works, are these:—

Some masters will have so much employment as to keep their "hands" at work for twelve months together from between 6 and 7 in the morning until 8, 9, and 10 at night; and a portion of their "hands" will occasionally work on to a later hour, and sometimes nearly all night, for two or three nights together.

Other masters will be supplied with full work from the merchants during the winter and spring months principally, and their people will work in the same manner and to the same extent as above described. The supply of work will then decline gradually until towards autumn, when it will be lightest, and the work-people will not be employed for the whole day for perhaps many weeks together.

The course of business at other works will be, that the demands upon them will vary from three months to three months, keeping them alternately busy and slack for those periods. Other works, again, will be busy for some time during alternate months; at others, they will have two or three busy months together, succeeded by two or three slack months, while on the other hand other works may be less continuously busy and slack, and may vary from week to week. (See example at Messrs. Blair's works. Evidence, pp. 27 to 31.)

The evidence shows that both at the large and small bleaching and finishing works a very common state of things is, that the work goes on for those "long hours" (as they are called) continuously for many months together, in some instances for so many as six months, in others for twelve months and more together.

A list of the bleaching and finishing works in Lancashire and Cheshire was furnished to me by the Chairman of the Bleachers' Association, Mr. J. H. Ainsworth, which will be found at p. 19 of the Evidence. It is not a complete list, but contains the names of 35 establishments.

I was informed by Mr. Ainsworth and other gentlemen that, in order to obtain the general facts applicable to the whole trade, it would be sufficient for me to visit ten or a dozen of those establishments. I visited and took evidence at 17, nine of the rest being small works employing from 50 to under 100 hands; and I also visited ten others not upon that list, in the neighbourhood of Manchester.

My conclusions, therefore, are drawn from the evidence there taken, and from my own observations; also from the evidence of several working men, members of the Operative Bleachers' Short Time Committee, and of men whom they brought before me. The evidence of these working men I submitted to Mr. Ainsworth, as Chairman of the Association of the Master Bleachers, with the request that he would communicate it to a committee of the masters, or to any individual masters to whom he might wish to send it; and I invited their replies or objections to any of the statements it contained.

The evidence of Mr. Ainsworth subsequently taken will show how little exception he made to it; nor have any other adverse criticisms upon it reached me beyond the very natural ones of charging some of the workmen's statements with exaggeration or error. Some of the statements made by a few of them are doubtless liable to that criticism; but their evidence as a whole is amply

borne out by the testimony I collected myself. The whole of the evidence collected by myself was read over, as it was taken down, to the persons giving it, and, in the case of that of the work-people, read over also to some one in authority on the spot, for their objections, or their assent to its correctness.

The main facts, indeed, as regards the "long hours," are admitted by the masters chiefly concerned; but they answer, first, that those hours do no harm to the great majority of their work-people, females, boys, or men; that there is not a more healthy set of work-people than those employed in the Bleaching and Finishing Works; that the occupation is itself a very healthy one, and is greatly preferred to the factories; that although these hours appear long, the "hands" have often intervals of rest beyond their regular meal-times; and many of them employ those hours or shorter periods in taking up a book and reading, or in walking out into the open air until the work they are waiting for is ready for them.

I think it would be more exact to say that all the processes and places of work are not likely to be injurious to health. The finishing and making up, which employs the greater number of females and boys, is carried on in rooms generally large, airy, and clean, free from those floating particles of cotton, and the smell of oil and other circumstances, which are found noxious and disagreeable in the factories. The various bleaching processes expose the people employed to much wet and damp, which in cold weather cannot but be much felt by the boys in some of these processes. In the stoves and other drying places, and in the dressing places, the work-people are exposed to very high temperatures, in some places continuously, in others not. In the "clamping-rooms," which are heated, men and boys are chiefly employed, but in no great numbers; and where a few females continue to be so in the English bleaching-works, it is looked upon as a circumstance requiring to be put an end to spontaneously by the employer. Some of the smaller places of work, especially in and about Manchester, were very close, and likely to be injurious to health.

That they are a very respectable class of work-people, is also open to common observation. Their earnings are considerable, and many have doubtless profited by the periods of slack time, which occur with more or less frequency at different works, to improve their minds; and of the advantage that they have taken of opportunities of instruction, by means of schools and libraries, I observed several instances of the kind above noticed, namely, that both boys and females were occupying a leisure moment with reading, while waiting for work.

That the great majority of persons employed in the bleaching and finishing works are of a very healthy appearance, is also true. It was also stated to me by several masters that the evidence of "Sick Funds" shows that as a rule they are so.

But this fact is subject to some important corrections.

First, it is universally admitted that none but those possessed of healthy and robust constitutions can stand the "long hours" of work to which they are from time to time subject, especially if, as is often the case, the work itself is laborious.

It is a common expression, I found, at those works to say, when any one is observed to be declining in health, "this work is too heavy for him (or her); he (or she) ought to be put to some lighter business."

Too much weight, as it appears to me, is attributed to the fact that occasionally during the day intervals of rest occur in addition to the hours of meals. Such intervals may occur not unfrequently when the work throughout the establishment is "slack;" but just at the time when those intervals would be of most value, namely, when there is full work and the hours are the longest, those occasions are likely to be less frequent, and will probably only arise from an accidental stoppage of the machinery, or from some want of arrangement which it must be the desire of the manager to prevent. Certain it is that among the numerous work-people to whom I put questions, very few admitted that such periods often occurred, with this exception,—that the time allowed for meals was not strictly enforced, but was often exceeded by ten minutes or a quarter of an hour at each meal; also that, although they were ordered to come in the morning at a certain hour (half-past 5, 6, or 7), they were not always punctual, and that punctuality in that respect was not enforced. Deductions to the extent of those extras periods of rest (as well as the ordinary meal-times) must therefore in most cases be made from the hours of actual work, whenever it is stated that the hours are from 6 a.m. to 8, 9, or 10 p.m., or to any

other hour. But those deductions will not affect the general conclusion that the work is injurious to the health of many who have undertaken it, and have been obliged to give it up from finding it to be too much for them.

I am prepared also very confidently to state, that in every one of the bleaching and finishing works which I visited, and in which those "long hours" had been common, I observed very many boys, girls, young men, and young women, both pale and sickly in their appearance, and stunted in their growth, and bearing evident marks in their general aspect of being injuriously affected by excess of labour.

It may be fairly presumed that gentlemen in the conspicuous and responsible position of clergymen and medical men would not affix their names to any document containing an assertion of a fact, without a full conviction of its truth, resting on a competent amount of knowledge. The testimony of such persons may therefore be appealed to with confidence, in corroboration of the facts which were indeed observed by me for the first time, and without any previous acquaintance whatever with bleach-works, or any circumstance connected with them, but which have been for years under the immediate observation of the gentlemen to whom I am about to refer. Nearly the whole of the medical gentlemen and clergymen of Bolton, and a very considerable number both of Manchester and Salford, have recently signed petitions to Parliament (copies of which, with the signatures annexed, I add (Evidence p. 12, and Appendix B.), referring to the injurious consequences, both bodily and mental, of those "long hours," to those exposed to them, and praying the Legislature to provide a remedy.

The numerous statements to the above effect, of persons employed, of both sexes, which I took down from them in as nearly as possible their own words, fully establish the injurious consequences to health, arising from those prolonged hours of labour.

They establish also another point, not I apprehend beneath the attention of the Legislature in estimating the necessity for its interference; namely, the prevalence of physical suffering among the young of both sexes (sometimes independent of, sometimes indicative of and contributing to, actual disease), occasioned by those long hours of work.

The young persons, male and female, whose testimony I collected on that point, were occasionally selected by me from their appearance indicating that they were suffering from excessive work; but in the great majority of cases I put questions to several as they stood at their work in succession, and recorded their answers. Their evidence does not admit of abridgement, but it will be found to be an almost unvaried recital of their then suffering, or of their having suffered, from sore feet, swelled ankles, pains in the legs, and other ailments, besides the fatigue which necessarily followed such prolonged labour.

It may be said that the "sore feet" (which are complained of chiefly in summer) arise from the practice of wearing wooden clogs and woollen stockings. But as this is almost the universal practice in Lancashire, the soreness of feet must be attributed to the length of hours during which the children and young people are on their feet, and moving about with more or less rapidity. The work in which the young are chiefly employed is "hooking" the pieces of cotton cloth, or muslin, on thin steel spikes about four inches long, set on the edge of a light frame about three and a half feet from the ground. The spikes are placed at the distance apart required for each fold of the cloth. The children bring the piece on their backs from a neighbouring pile, throw it down on a low platform or box close to the frame, and then commence hooking it by the edge, fold by fold, until it is all transferred to the hooks. They then lift it off, and throw it upon a table behind them, at which stands a woman or a man, who again folds the entire piece into the narrow compass in which it is seen in the shops. Two "hookers" generally keep one man or woman in full employ; each "hooker" must therefore get on with the work as quickly as his or her skill permits, and when they have become expert, they go on with considerable rapidity, bending and stepping from right to left, and from left to right, hooking the edge, and smoothing down the cloth, fold by fold, as it hangs.* Thus also the swelled ankles and pains in the limbs, so generally complained of by the girls and young women, are

* The sore and cut fingers which are so common are, from the nature of the work, unavoidable.

directly referable to the many hours that they are on their feet, and to the almost constant and sometimes rapid movement required.

Mr. J. H. AINSWORTH, Chairman of the Bleachers' Association, and employing the largest number of workpeople in any one set of works in the trade, states in his evidence (p. 13.) that he is ready to admit that the hours of work have at times been too long for females and boys. Mr. Hardcastle, who in two works employs more persons than any other master of bleach-works, in his evidence (p. 19.) limits his admission to the case of females under 18. Both those gentlemen, however, are adverse to legislative interference; both object to it "on principle;" at the same time both throw out propositions for consideration, respecting the mode and the extent of the interference, which would be, according to their views, least injurious to the trade, supposing Parliament to decide that some limitation of the hours of labour for females and boys is necessary. Both assert that in their opinion the question is "surrounded with difficulties," which present great obstacles to any other than their present arrangements, and both attribute the necessity under which they lie to call upon their people to work those long hours, almost exclusively to the sudden orders which they are liable to receive from the merchants to prepare goods for shipment by a certain day.

I am able to say that very few of the employers justified the long hours for the young, in themselves; nearly all were prepared to admit that they were not desirable; that they were attended with many disadvantages, and sometimes with more loss than gain to the master; some, to whom I shall again advert, avoided them as much as possible, and very seldom resorted to them; and the whole of the masters who did, threw the responsibility upon the merchants, and appealed to the necessities of trade under which the merchants were placed, as their justification.

It became necessary for me, therefore, to seek the opinions of the principal Manchester merchants upon this point; and accordingly, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Hardcastle, Mr. Ridgway Bridson, and Mr. Bealey, who, with Messrs. Blair and Summer, are deemed generally to represent the bleaching and finishing trade of that part of the country, named to me fourteen of the principal mercantile firms of Manchester, whom they wished me to consult upon the subject; to nearly all of whom I was forthwith furnished with letters of introduction, conveying the wishes of the bleach-masters that those firms should express their opinions to me upon the point in question.

The argument of the masters had been to the following effect. The merchant was in the constant habit of receiving orders from his correspondents at home and abroad to send out a certain quantity of goods of a certain quality and "finish," "by the next steamer," or by a ship advertised to sail on a certain day. The merchant then went into the market, purchased the goods in the grey or unbleached state, and, having ascertained from the bleacher that he could bleach and finish them in the manner required by the day named, gave directions to the bleacher to send for them accordingly. Certain bleachers, they say, have a name in the trade for certain "finishes," and (as a general rule) one bleacher cannot execute the "finish" of another; neither, if he could, would the merchant run the risk of sending cloth ordered to be of "the finish" of a certain specified kind well known to the customer, or of a certain named bleacher, to be bleached and finished by another. Consequently, if the cloth could not be bleached and finished by the particular bleacher by the day named, the order would be lost. Again, if the question related to the commoner kinds of cotton cloth (shirtings, &c.), and the merchant or shipper, being desirous to send a certain quantity in a bleached state to a foreign market, by a certain ship, found any obstacle in the way of getting the cloth bleached by the required day, he might send it out unbleached, and the bleacher would lose so much employment. The bleachers urged that, as regarded certain "season markets," it was particularly important to their trade to be able to execute orders rapidly, otherwise the goods would arrive too late for the current season; or, if there were any risk of that, they would not be sent to be bleached at all. When such orders accumulate, the masters are obliged to call upon their workpeople to work long hours. To interfere by law to prevent their employing females and boys as they do at present (sometimes twelve, fourteen, and sixteen hours a day for many months together, and occasionally for a few days much longer hours), would be, they affirm, not only very injurious to the bleaching and finishing business, but, in the words of Mr. Hardcastle (§ 173.), would "endanger most materially the prosperity of the

cotton manufacture generally." Mr. Hardcastle and other gentlemen in the bleaching trade also expressed an apprehension that any such interference with the labour of females and boys, which might "hamper the trade," or "add materially to the expense of production," would tend to exclude bleached goods from foreign markets, from some of which certain kinds had already been excluded by foreign competition.

It will be immediately felt that, if the above arguments were borne out by the concurrent testimony of the principal merchants of Manchester, to whom the bleach-masters referred in support of their views, considerations of a very grave and important nature would interpose to obstruct the humane desires of the Legislature, or at all events to limit its interference to the smallest possible measure consistent with giving some amount of protection to the young engaged in those employments.

But on going carefully and minutely into the question with those merchants, I found that four only supported the views of the masters; the remaining ten, as will be seen by reference to the evidence (pp. 83 to 89.), acknowledging that in certain cases the arguments of the masters held good, were nevertheless of opinion that upon the whole the restriction of the labour of females and boys in the bleaching and finishing works "would make very little difference" to any one; that it would be attended with no danger to the great mercantile interests of the country engaged in the cotton trade; that the difficulty of adopting the restriction was more in apprehension than in reality, and that it would soon be got over; that all parties would soon learn to accommodate themselves to it; and that in the end it would be better for all parties, bleaching-masters and workpeople, and even the merchants themselves.

The gentlemen who expressed those opinions to me, and permitted me to reduce them to writing, and to give them on their authority, were Messrs. Barbour and Fleming; Messrs. Pender and Cowan; Mr. Scott, partner in the firm of Jones, Brothers and Co.; Mr. Leisler, partner of the firm of Du Fay and Co.; Mr. Leopold Reiss; Mr. J. Slagg; Mr. A. S. Thornton; Mr. Kling, of the firm of Reus and Kling; Mr. Mather, of the establishment of Messrs. Busneman; and Messrs. Schunk and Souchay, as conversant with the Continental trade.

Those names will be at once recognized as comprising nearly the whole of the principal mercantile firms in Manchester, the nature of whose business causes them to be in frequent communication with the bleachers, and acquainted with the peculiarities of their trade.

Mr. Kershaw, M.P., concurred in opinion with the masters. The gentleman, however, to whom I was presented by Mr. Kershaw as more immediately in charge of the portion of his business connected with the bleachers (Mr. Berry), although not wishing that a detailed statement of his should be reduced to writing, expressed to me his general concurrence in the views embodied in the evidence of Mr. Scott. Messrs. Tootal and Broadbent supported in part the views of the masters. Mr. Dorrington also takes the same views, but nevertheless expressed the opinion that children in bleach-works ought not to be employed below the age of 12 or 14, and that females under age should also, in regard to their hours of work, come under some legislative restriction.

I cannot refrain from expressing my sense of the great courtesy and patience of the whole of the above-named gentlemen, in permitting me to occupy their valuable time in informing myself of their opinions upon a matter so foreign to my own pursuits, and upon which, therefore, I had the more difficulty in arriving at a clear understanding.

I regret that a misapprehension prevented my having the benefit of recording the opinion of Mr. Henry, whose firm is one of the largest in Manchester. I have, however, reason to believe that Mr. Henry would concur entirely with the views of the masters.

The general purport of the evidence of the ten gentlemen above named is as follows:—

Of the two great markets for bleached goods, the home and the foreign, the home has become much less a "season trade" than it formerly was, in consequence of the facilities afforded by railways; the purchasers, instead of laying in large stocks at a time, come down to Manchester every few weeks and select what

they require. The merchants, therefore, are, as a general rule, prepared with a stock on hand of the goods they may require, sufficient for current consumption, and can in most cases see a certain time before-hand what goods they may have to send to the bleachers. Of the foreign markets the American is, in consequence of the extension of railways both in Canada and the United States, and the frequency of communication from this country, becoming less and less a "season market." The South American and Australian, Levant, and Continental markets are also but little affected by seasons, and to them, and also (to a considerable extent) to the India and China markets, the great stream of export traffic goes on all the year round. It might occasionally happen that towards the end of certain seasons, for the Indian and South American markets especially, if an order for goods could not be despatched quickly it might be lost, or the goods, if sent, might arrive too late; but those would be, in amount, unimportant cases, compared with the great mass of the exports of such goods; and even if, from any circumstance, any particular market was left bare for a time of any one description of goods, if there were a legitimate demand for it, that demand would be supplied the next season, or after a certain interval. The supply of the article would not be lost to this country, although the execution of a particular order might be lost by one merchant or one bleacher.

The possible loss of an order, or inability to execute one within as short a time as at present, consequent upon any restriction of the hours of labour of females and boys, applies almost exclusively to fine or fancy goods. These are bleached and finished by a comparatively small number of bleachers, two of whom (Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Ridgway Bridson) are said to prepare as much of this description of goods as the whole of the rest of the trade put together. The bleachers of fine goods maintain that, as they have a particular finish of their own, and as a large quantity of cloth may be sent to them requiring that finish, and to be ready to be shipped on a certain day, the merchant cannot send such cloth to any other bleacher; and any restriction upon the labour of any of their workpeople might occasion them to lose the order altogether. But it must be borne in mind that, if the merchant must come to them, he must also give them time to execute the order; he is in fact dependent upon them; and if they could now, working sixteen hours a day, execute a given order in three days, he would have to wait an additional day if the hours were limited to twelve. If a restriction of hours to that amount did take place in consequence of any legislative enactment, without any corresponding increase of productive power (which is improbable) a particular shipping order for delivery towards the end of a certain season might be lost, but the great stream of export would remain unaffected as long as the particular class of goods were wanted in the foreign markets.

But the export of fine goods, and the bleaching and finishing of fine goods, form but a small proportion of the great bleaching finishing business of this country.

For the bleaching and finishing of the more common kinds of cotton cloth, which are the great staple of manufacture and export in this branch of manufacture and commerce, the merchants are not "tied to any particular bleacher;" and if a large order were suddenly given for goods of those common kinds, to be bleached and finished by a certain day, there would be no difficulty, as a general rule, in dividing the goods among several bleachers, instead of sending them all to one.

If a Bill were to pass limiting the hours of labour for females and boys, an immediate effort would in all probability be made by the masters in the bleaching and finishing business, to enlarge their works and improve their machinery; for the competition among them is represented to be so keen, that rather than lose an order, and with that possibly a certain portion of their "connexion," they would endeavour, to the utmost of their power, to obtain the means of getting through the same amount of work in a given number of days, as they can now do with their present unlimited power of employing females and boys for fifteen, sixteen, eighteen, or more hours per day.

In order to enable them to do so with profit, they must, either by improved management or by improved machinery, reduce their costs, or they must obtain a higher price for the work done.

The evidence shows that there is, in many instances, room for improved management, whereby a greater amount of work could be got through with advantage in a given time, by greater punctuality, or by more economical

internal arrangements; that in other works well known improvements in machinery, and consequent facilities for saving time and economizing labour, have not yet been introduced; and that in several works of the most importance, not only have these improvements of machinery and arrangement been already effected, but, within the last two years, in anticipation of some measure for limiting the hours of labour for females and boys, considerable additions have been made, and are now making, both to their buildings and machinery, which, when fully brought into play, will give them greatly augmented means of getting through speedily an increased quantity of work.

The question may be asked, what are the grounds for supposing that such additional outlay of capital in this particular branch of business is prudent and justifiable? If more economical management, or a reduction in the cost of labour, or a larger amount of business, or a more regular distribution of it throughout the year (which would prevent so much of their capital lying comparatively idle for weeks together, as is sometimes the case at present), cannot be looked to with certainty to afford interest and profit upon that additional outlay, can an increase of the price now paid for bleaching and finishing be asked from the merchant and acceded to by him without danger to the great mercantile and commercial interests involved in that branch of manufacture?

The almost universal concurrence of opinion among the great mercantile firms of Manchester, to whom I was referred by the bleachers for information upon this matter, and the plain facts of the case, may be held to remove all doubt upon this portion of the subject.

The cost of bleaching and finishing the various kinds of cotton goods, in pieces of from twenty to fifty yards in length, and costing in the unbleached state from 2s. 6d. to 15s. per piece, is from 2½d. to 1s. per piece. (Evidence, pp. 22, 33, 36, 37).

Upon a piece of cotton cloth of the average value of 6s. 6d. the cost of bleaching and finishing would be 9d.

Supposing an increase of price even to the large amount of 10 per cent., which would be a most important addition for the bleacher, to be required in order to enable him to remunerate himself for his increased outlay, 10 per cent. upon 9d. would be one penny, and would raise the total cost of the bleached and finished article from 7s. 3d. (6s. 6d. + 9d. = 7s. 3d.) to 7s. 4d. (6s. 6d. + 10d. = 7s. 4d.) (Evidence, § 340.)

But this increase would amount to only a fraction above one per cent. upon the selling price of the piece of cloth. In the case of some inferior qualities in large demand (as stated in the instance given at § 325 of the Evidence) a rise of even 20 per cent. upon the bleaching would amount to an increase of only one per cent. upon the selling price of the piece. In the case of pieces of the higher value, from 12s. to 15s., an increase of 10 per cent. upon the cost of bleaching (one penny and one farthing upon 1s. 1d.) would amount to much less than one per cent.,—to about three fourths per cent.

And on referring to one of the well-known trade circulars of Messrs. Du Fay & Co. (See Appendix D.), it will be seen that from month to month (and occasionally, I am informed, from week to week) the selling price of the different kinds and qualities of cotton cloth varies considerably more than one per cent.; the variations often amounting within those periods to three, four, five, and six per cent.; and, if intervals of five or six, or from six to twelve months be compared, to eight and ten per cent. An instance of the latter will be found in the price of a certain description of cloth falling from 10s. in August last to 9s. in January last, or 10 per cent.; the stages of decline in the intervening months being respectively two-and-half per cent., five per cent., two-and-half, seven-and-half, and eight-and-half.

The evidence of those gentlemen already quoted is quite clear as to the fact that an increase of even 10 per cent. upon the cost of bleaching, or one per cent. upon the selling price of the goods, could have no perceptible effect upon the great branch of manufacture concerned.

If the bleachers fail to establish such increase, or having temporarily obtained it consent to forego it, it will be a proof that the competition among themselves has induced them to rely upon other means for a due remuneration upon their skill and capital.

The point which next arises for consideration is, if the Legislature should see reasons for limiting the hours of labour for females and boys in the bleaching and finishing works, to what extent would it be desirable to carry that limitation.

The Chairman of the Bleachers' Association, Mr. Ainsworth, although admitting that the hours of work have been at times too long for females and boys, will probably protest against legislative interference, but in the event of some interference being determined upon, will maintain his opinion as expressed in his evidence (p. 13) that females and boys under eighteen ought, in the bleaching, and finishing, and dyeing works, to be allowed to work from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Mr. Hardcastle may, under a similar protest against legislation being necessary, be expected to renew his suggestion (Evidence, p. 20 § 177) "that he should be glad indeed to see that no children under eleven should be employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing, and finishing, and that no females under eighteen should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely between half-past 5 in the morning and half-past 8 at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week within those daily hours;" the Legislature having, Mr. Hardcastle believes, in the Acts for regulating labour, established the hours from half-past 5 in the morning to half-past 8 at night as constituting day-time.*

Mr. Morris, manager of a portion of Mr. Ainsworth's works, was of opinion (Evidence p. 16) that, if the latitude suggested by Mr. Ainsworth were allowed (i. e., of working females and boys from 6 to 10, or 96 hours per week), a further restriction might with propriety be added, namely, that they should not be allowed to work more than 14 hours a-day for five days, and 10 hours on Saturday, making altogether 80 hours per week.

It will be observed that Mr. Hardcastle would object to any limitation being placed on the hours of work for boys; the only regulation which he would think necessary in their case being, that they should not be allowed to work in those employments until the age of 11. Neither would Mr. Hardcastle assent to any limitation of hours for adult females.

Various other limitations both as to age and length of time were submitted to me for consideration by other gentlemen, or suggested by me for their opinions, the whole of which I have endeavoured to weigh maturely, with the full sense of the difficulty of arriving at a sound conclusion where so many interests are involved, and where many points require attention connected with the requirements of great varieties of processes and employments.

Suggestions for the relief of females and boys from presumed excessive labour proceeding from gentlemen in the position of Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Hardcastle, which would nevertheless (in the first case) leave females and boys exposed to the liability of working 16 hours a day, exclusive of meal-times, for any number of days consecutively, or (in the second case) leave boys above 11 and adult females entirely unprotected, or (in the case of Mr. Morris's suggestion) allow of females and boys making 80 hours per week, may all at first sight appear to arise from no very great sense of the claims of the working classes upon the consideration of their employers. I am fully convinced that those suggestions proceed from no such feeling, but solely from a conviction upon their minds that, from the irregularity of the employment, and the alleged frequent opportunities of rest in addition to the usual meal-times, the young of neither sex require any greater degree of protection, either on the ground of health or morals, or of their means and opportunities of mental improvement.

Mr. Hardcastle refers very strongly to the fact that neither females nor boys work at present such long hours for many days or weeks together as was the case some years ago; and that a gradual and sensible amelioration in that particular was in progress, and that consequently there was no need of legislative interference. Mr. Hardcastle also drew my attention very pointedly to one of his own works, at which, in consequence of the state of trade for some months past, the people had been very far from being employed even as many as 12 hours a-day.

Whatever may have been the case in former years, the evidence shows that at present, in very many works, the females and boys are liable to be called upon to work 14, 15, or 16 hours a day for many months together, and that the intervals of rest are not sufficient to prevent their suffering from them; many being seriously affected in their health; many more complaining of the

* 8 & 9 Vict. c. 29. § 2. (Calico Print-Works Act.) Night defined to be from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
b 3

physical suffering occasioned by the long hours; others of being restricted in time and opportunities for mental improvement; all expressing a cordial wish that their hours should be placed under the same regulation as the factories, even although they might thereby earn less wages.

The unanimous desire of those among the workmen who have taken part in or supported the effort that is being made to induce the Legislature to apply the principles of the Factory Acts to the bleaching and finishing and dye-works, and the equally unanimous wish expressed to me by every young person of either sex whom I examined, or whose opinion or wishes I asked, did not prevent me from feeling that it was incumbent upon me to consider most carefully whether any other arrangement than that embodied in the Factory Acts was more suitable to the circumstances, and called for by both the great interests concerned,—those of the work-people and their employers.

The precedent of the Print-Works Act immediately suggests itself for consideration. The limitation under that Act applies only to children between 8 and 13, and females, and (by § 22.) permits them to work from 6 in the morning till 10 at night,* and the grounds on which such limitation was determined upon appear to have been, that the labour of children in that branch of business was not continuous, and that they had frequent intervals of rest during the day, while waiting until the different processes to which they attended required their active exertions. Such I have observed to be the fact in print-works.†

But these grounds are only partially applicable to the bleaching and finishing and dye-works. In these the kind of work is, as a rule, more laborious for the young than that of the print-works; the goods to be operated upon come in in larger quantities, and there is a continual liability to the recurrence of those pressures upon the bleacher which oblige him to "push" his work-people to get through a large extra portion of work in a short time. The larger the "connexion" of the bleacher, the more successful his business, the better the state of trade—the greater and more frequent are those periods of pressure. It happens, therefore, that in very many of the bleach-works the hours of labour will be with very little interruption (for 3, 6, 9, or 12 months together,) 14, 16, and 16 hours a day, and sometimes longer. Allowing every latitude for the argument that the females and boys have by accident, or take by arrangement with each other (for they all work by the piece), or are permitted by the managers, occasional periods of rest; I apprehend that the evidence I have collected is sufficient to justify the conclusion that to sanction the hours from 6 to 10, as those within which females and boys may be allowed to work in these branches of business, would be to afford to them no practical relief.

I apprehend also that the suggestion of Mr. Morris that the hours should be limited to 80 a week, within the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., is on the same grounds open to the same objection.

Mr. Hardcastle's suggestion that no boy under 11 should be employed in the bleaching and finishing and dye-works, is in accordance with an opinion expressed on behalf of the men (Evid. p. 3, § 22), and looking at the laborious nature of a large portion of the work, appears to me desirable. It would also, I believe, be generally acceptable throughout the trade. The same gentleman's suggestion with regard to not permitting females under 18 to work more than 60 hours a week, or except between half-past 5 in the morning and half-past 8 at night, is, in intention, both liberal and humane; and as it proceeds from a gentleman whose interests are so large in the trade, and who has been intimately conversant with every department of it for so many years, none but very strong and cogent reasons would be sufficient to overcome the very natural inclination to rest satisfied with and to acquiesce in such an opinion.

* By section 21, boys between 13 and 16 must be certified by a surgeon to be of ordinary strength, and not incapacitated from working longer hours.

† In the course of the discussion upon the second reading of that Bill in the House of Commons, April 2, 1845, Mr. Milner Gibson stated that, "a man might be in a print-works for many hours, but it did not follow that during all that time he was employed in a manner injurious to health." Mr. Cowper stated, in reference to the definition of the term "work," that "it meant being employed on the premises; for it was quite sufficient that the children were kept on the premises during their working hours, without being allowed time to receive instruction, to constitute the definition. Nothing was more important than to secure for the operative classes a proper amount of leisure, in order that there might be time for improving their moral condition by a sufficient education."—*Standard*.

Mr. Hardcastle argues that the nature of the work in bleaching and finishing and dyeing works is such that boys above the age of 11 may be permitted, without injury to themselves, physical or mental, to work as long as the men in those employments are now called upon to do, that is, for 14, 15, and 16 hours a day, often for many weeks or months continuously; sometimes for more hours per day; sometimes, though rarely, for nearly 24 hours together; for it has been already shown that, although in some works these long hours may be varied every week for some time by short hours, and that at some periods of the year the short hours may be the rule at most works, yet it is equally shown by the evidence that the continuance of those long hours at very many works for many months together is very common, and that both boys and females assert and complain that they suffer, physically and mentally, from the effects. The truth of those assertions is also supported by the testimony of the medical men and clergymen whose petitions to Parliament have been above referred to. I apprehend, therefore, that it will not be deemed consistent with a due regard to the facts, or to the considerations to which they give rise, to separate the case of boys between 11 and 18 from that of girls between those ages, in regard to their claim upon the Legislature for protection.

Mr. Hardcastle would further exempt all females above that age from such protection, on the ground that the labour is not too severe for them, and that they are able to protect themselves.

There is undoubtedly a certain proportion of women employed in those works in simply working with the needle, either in marking or in stitching the pieces of cloth together with a needle or with a sewing machine, and a few others in work which from its lightness may be long continued without oppressive fatigue; other portions of the work may also be carried on by women of strong frames and constitutions for 14, 15, or 16 hours a day for some days consecutively without material inconvenience. But a large proportion of the work for which female labour is employed at those works (the finishing and making up) is very frequently both heavy in itself, and requires to be gone through with rapidity and without cessation for many hours together; and with all the greater rapidity, and the fewer chances of occasional extra minutes of rest, in proportion as the business of the employer is considerable, and the management exact and careful. For it is obvious that, the more regular and well arranged the progress of the work, the less frequently will the engine and machinery be required to be kept going, or the gas burning, for a number of hands short of the full complement.

I found, with scarcely an exception, that the females above 18 had precisely the same wish with regard to the shortening the number of hours as the younger ones. Many of them were young women just above that age, and between that and 30. If they are unmarried, it would be no more than consistent with fairness to give them the same protection from the temptation to excessive labour, for the sake of the preservation of their health and opportunities for improvement, which would be extended to those of their sex below 18. If they are married, their domestic duties can be very little attended to while they are away from their homes for 14, 15, or 16 hours a day, and the probability would be the less of their children having the benefit of any proper degree of instruction or training.

Supposing Mr. Hardcastle's suggestion to be capable of being, by the above arguments, legitimately extended so as to include boys between 11 and 18 and all females, the next question is, whether the limitation from half-past 5 a.m. to half-past 8 p.m., which that gentleman also suggested, is one which should be determined upon, coupled with the other portion of Mr. Hardcastle's suggestions, namely, that females under 18 (to which I have endeavoured to show that it would be right to add boys under 18, and to include all females,) should not be permitted to work more than 60 working hours per week within those daily hours; the proposition would, as regards the total amount of work within the week, be in accordance with the provisions of the Factory Act, and with the desire of the work people in the bleach-works, &c., as expressed in the evidence. But on mentioning this proposition to various persons in the trade, among whom I may name Mr. Ainsworth in particular, I did not find that it was approved of. However suitable to the mode of work and the course of business at some works, it did not appear to be thought generally

applicable or desirable. It would also open the door to evasions. The witness, John Waring (§ 435), made the following comment upon it :

" If Mr. Hardcastle's plan, or anything like it, were to be adopted, of allowing work to be done by females and boys between half-past 5 and half-past 8, but only 60 hours a week, the females and boys might have done their 60 hours in less than five days. That would be no benefit to the masters, because their machinery would be standing, and the drags losing their strength, the rest of the time."

I have endeavoured to look at this question with the most sincere desire to give full weight to the difficulties which press upon the minds of the most conscientious masters. Those most disposed to adopt some plan which would relieve the females and boys in their employ from their present liability to exhausting labour, expressed their inability to see their way to any plan which would not be attended with considerable inconvenience to them. I therefore gave much consideration to, and took pains to elicit opinions upon, the point, whether the masters had a fair claim, considering the nature of their business, to be allowed to employ the labour of females and boys for longer hours than in the factories; whether the restriction in regard to boys might not, without injury to them, be allowed to cease at 14 or 16 instead of 18.

On maturely weighing the opinions I received from both sides, and referring to the whole tenor of the evidence, especially that of the great majority of the large mercantile firms above adverted to, I have been brought to the conclusion that the difficulties and inconveniences which the masters contemplate are much greater in appearance than reality. If they should continue subject to the same obligations as at present, to execute large orders for the merchants in the same space of time (which the great majority of those merchants say need not be the case if a law passed affording them an answer to such requests), they would, in the opinion of those merchants to whom they desired me to appeal, be justified in incurring an outlay for additional machinery, by being able to obtain a corresponding addition to their price for bleaching. But whether they increased their productive powers or not, a reduction by law of the working hours would be attended with increased activity and regularity during those hours. If the law allowed females and boys in those works to work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., with an interval of two hours for meals, there cannot be a doubt that arrangements would be made for exacting punctuality; that the present very common habit of beginning half an hour after the hour specified, and of taking an extra 10 minutes or more at each meal time, would be abandoned, and that in busy times (which, at many works, are shown to continue often for many months together) many females and boys would be exposed to hard and continuous work for 12 working hours a day. It cannot be doubted that 12 hours a day of such work as the largest proportion of females and boys in those works are called upon to perform for many months continuously, would be an undue demand upon their strength, especially to the young among them of both sexes; and I do not think that boys of 14 or 16 could fairly be placed in the same category as men in those departments of labour, at those works where the assistance of boys is required, and where they work against machinery, and have to keep up with adult labour.

The same argument would hold good, *a fortiori*, were the permitted hours to be from 6 to 7; for in that case, not only would there be a tendency to a greater acceleration of labour, but the half-hour of rest at tea-time could scarcely be exacted, or if it were the master would scarcely think the additional half-hour beyond 6 o'clock worth having.

It may be concluded, therefore, that in the absence of any undoubted necessity for the continuance of the present habit of those long hours which have been shown to prevail, and considering that sufficient grounds have been shown for the conclusion that shorter hours may be adopted without danger to the great interests involved, and further, that it would not be expedient to adopt the hours from 6 to 10, or from half-past 5 to half-past 8, or from 6 to 8, or from 6 to 7; the alternative remains of following the precedent of the Factory Act, and requiring the limitation to be between 6 and 8, with a certain variation to be hereafter adverted to.

In justification of this proposition there are some remarkable and most satisfactory precedents; not, indeed, in the precise neighbourhood of Bolton and Bury, where the great mass of the bleaching and finishing works of Lancashire are situated, otherwise they would, doubtless, have been brought to my notice by the

gentlemen who furnished me with information relative to the works in that district, to whom I have above referred; but in the immediate neighbourhood of Manchester, and principally in Salford. I did not become acquainted with these latter works until I had seen most of the principal works in the neighbourhood of Bolton.

The bleaching and finishing and dyeing works of Messrs. Dewhurst and Co., Salford (Evid. p. 41), are among the largest in the trade; employing about 250 men, boys and females. In addition to preparing and dyeing fastians, Messrs. Dewhurst and Co. bleach, dye, and finish all kinds of cotton goods for the Manchester merchants. The principal managing partner, Mr. Sager, with great frankness, stated to me that, although they were subject to the same kind of occasional pressure to execute shipping orders for the Manchester merchants, as the bleachers of Bolton and that neighbourhood, their regular hours of work were, and had been since 1847, from 6 to 6, and that they very seldom made any overtime, and never allowed their people to go on later than half-past 8. The days on which they worked overtime did not amount to much more than two months in the course of the year, and those not continuous. The works of this firm are well known to have been among the most successful in the trade. Mr. Sager stated that he adopted this plan of regular hours at the time that the Factory Act passed, and had continued it ever since; that he considered it in all respects for the most profitable and satisfactory, both for the masters and men; and that he had no desire to exceed those hours, even to the limited amount and on the comparatively few occasions which he did, from time to time, at present; but if an Act were to pass placing the females and boys of his establishment under similar limitations to those of the factories, he should find little difficulty in conforming to it.

Mr. Sager made no objection to communicating his opinions to me very freely upon the subject, but preferred that any detailed statement should be taken from his manager, Mr. Bell, who would speak more minutely to the facts. I accordingly beg to refer to Mr. Bell's evidence (p. 41), which fully bears out the foregoing.

In the same neighbourhood of Salford and Manchester are the works of the dyers and finishers of fastian and velveteen goods. I was furnished with a list of 18 of these. Three had recently suspended work. I visited eight of the remaining 15, and found, as I had been informed, that their system as to hours was uniform throughout that branch of business, namely, that their regular hours were from 6 to 6, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour for meals, and a half holiday on Saturday, as in the factories. These works employ about 3,600 people, of whom about one-third are females and boys; nearly as large a number as that given in the list for the neighbourhood of Bolton, (Evidence, p. 19) which contains very few of the firms near Manchester. They are subject to the same occasional pressure, to execute shipping orders for the merchants, as the bleachers of Bolton, &c.; and they occasionally, but seldom, work overhours, and scarcely ever beyond half-past 8.

I beg to refer to the evidence of some of the principal of those masters, Mr. Schofield (Evidence, p. 53), Mr. Worrall (Evidence, p. 40), Mr. J. Lancaster (Evidence, p. 58), and Mr. Vaughan (Evidence, p. 59). They express, what I was assured was nearly the unanimous opinion of the trade in that neighbourhood, that the example of the Factory Act had induced them to try the same regulations as to hours; that they found no difficulty after a little time in making their arrangements for that purpose; that they found the shorter hours more profitable and advantageous for both masters and men; that they had no desire to work overtime, as they were sometimes still called upon to do; and that, if the law were to interpose to prevent it as regards females and boys, they should have little or no difficulty in conforming to it.

The case of the dyers of Turkey-red will be considered by itself. All other dyers of cotton goods come within the same category as the bleachers, the dyeing processes, where in use, making a part of or being attached to the bleaching portion of the establishment. The evidence is clear to the fact that there is no difficulty in the way of arrangements which would enable the females and boys belonging to the dyeing department to cease work at a particular hour, without the slightest injury to any one of the processes; inasmuch as any occasional need that may arise for any process to be continued to completion after a certain hour, might be met by applying to it the labour of any young

men upon the establishment above the age of 18, who could be employed for the short time such a process might require. The dyers also, as a rule, are not so liable to be called upon to work very long hours. Being generally in the same establishment with the bleachers and finishers, they cannot be separated from them in any enactment; but the difficulties are the less in adjusting their work to a regulated number of hours.

SUGGESTIONS.

I.—I think it will be seen from the foregoing that the hours of labour established by the Factory Acts, namely from 6 to 6, with intervals of an hour and a half for meals, and a half holiday on Saturday, may with propriety and safety be applied by law to the bleaching and finishing and dyeing works for cotton fabrics, with the variation now to be mentioned.

It was insisted on by many of the owners and managers of the cotton bleach-works and dye-works in England and Scotland, and very forcibly also by most of the owners and managers of linen bleach-works in Ireland and Scotland (see Report, pp. xxix. xxxii.), that as the bleaching process is so much dependent on chemical agents, and as the quantities of cloth to be dealt with in any one process vary with the fineness of the material, it is very difficult and often impossible to say beforehand that they can stop the work at a given moment, either at the meal hours or at the final hour of leaving off work in the evening; and consequently they as often stop a few minutes before as a few minutes after the regular hour.

It may happen that this cause may operate one day to oblige them to go beyond the two meal hours and the final hour of stopping by a few minutes, perhaps 10 minutes, each. On another day, with a different quantity or quality of cloth to deal with, there may be a diminution of time worked to the same amount.

Many works, also, especially in Scotland and Ireland, are so arranged that it would be impossible for them, without an entire change of system, to diminish materially the number of working hours on Saturdays, their usual working hours being 10 per day, that is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours for meals, except on Saturdays, when the work-people voluntarily take only half an hour for each meal time, in order to leave work at 5. In all such cases I found that the recognised hours of meals were two a day, and consequently that the actual number of hours worked were the same as the factory hours, namely 60 hours per week.

Considering the great number of females (and some boys) working in the hot stoves in Scotland and Ireland, and a few in England, in very high temperatures (90° to 100° and 120°, and in some cases to 130°) during the whole working hours, and considering also the fatiguing nature of much of the work of other descriptions in which both females and boys are engaged, in the English bleach-works especially, it would appear to be undesirable to make the meal hours of the factories, namely, half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner, in all cases obligatory. It is obvious that two full hours of rest are desirable in all cases where the work is hard, and the temperature such as above described.

II.—It appears, therefore, that it may with propriety be proposed that in any bleaching, or finishing, or dyeing works in which the time assigned for meals shall be two full hours, except on Saturdays when they may be not less than an hour and a half, the employment of females and boys shall be lawful from 6 a.m. to half-past 6 p.m.; and also that no person shall be subject to the penalties of the proposed Act for employing the labour of females and boys before 6 o'clock in the morning on Saturdays, provided always that the hours of actual work on Saturdays, added to the hours worked on the previous five days, do not exceed 60 for the whole week.

This would enable the owners and managers of these works to employ females and boys either for ten hours and a half on five days of the week and seven hours and a half on Saturdays, or ten hours a day for every working day in the week, as may best suit their convenience; and by beginning earlier than 6 on Saturdays, as is the present practice with many, to finish work on that day at an earlier hour in the afternoon.

It remains to consider how far the other provisions of the Factory Act are applicable to the bleaching and finishing and dyeing works.

III.—Instead of admitting children to work at the early age of eight, as at the factories, and limiting them to work only "half-time" up to the age of 13, during which interval they are obliged to attend school, the suggestion that no child should be admitted to work at the bleaching and finishing and dyeing works under the age of 11 would, I believe, be unobjectionable.

IV.—Previously to a child arriving at the age of 11, there have been opportunities of school instruction which will in all probability, considering the growing disposition among the working classes towards education, and the greatly increased number and efficiency of schools, have been to a certain extent taken advantage of.

To introduce a system of compulsory attendance for children of 11 years of age, which, according to the analogy of the Factory Act would only be of two years duration, would probably be acknowledged to be inexpedient.

V.—Neither would the machinery of surgeon's certificates be indispensable towards checking the possible disposition of parents to send their children to work a little before they complete 11 years, as is the case when the limit is the tender age of eight.

I believe that a sufficient check would be found in requiring the parent or guardian of a child first admitted to any of those works to produce the usual certificate of baptism, or, in the case of a valid reason being shown for being unable to do so, to deliver to the employer a declaration in writing stating the true age of the child, coupled with condign punishment in case of such declaration being false. This certificate or declaration would be kept by the employer, ready to be produced to any inspector, until the child had passed the age of 18.

VI.—The question of the necessity for giving power to an inspector to order the fencing off of dangerous machinery, engaged much of my attention on going through the various works with the proprietors or some one in authority.

The evidence shows that accidents arising from the machinery being unfenced are not of frequent occurrence. A great deal of it is not of a nature that can be considered to be dangerous in the sense of entangling any portion of the person in it by the position in which it stands or by its construction. Wherever it is so, I observed that the master had, in almost every instance, already fenced it off; and in the few that appeared to be dangerous to any one inadvertently coming too near it, on my calling attention to it, immediate directions were given to cause it to be properly guarded. The accidents which usually happen are, I believe, such as from the nature of the machinery must be expected to occur from time to time from mere carelessness; as, for instance, if a man or boy whose business it is to attend upon the rollers, and to place the cloth within their touch, puts a finger too near them and has it crushed. I found very little desire existing on the part of the working people that the Legislature should interfere in this matter. I believe that the reasonable suggestions of an inspector, in the course of his duties in reference to the age of the children and the hours of work, would be attended to, on his calling the attention of the master to any dangerous portion of the machinery which, from the force of habit, had not been considered such by himself or his workpeople.

VII.—There are one or two other points in which it appears to me that good reasons exist for deviation from the precedent of the Factory Acts. By those acts no permission is given to make up for time lost by breakages of machinery. Where the machinery, such as that of the factories, is of such delicate and accurate construction, so light in its kind, and consequently so little liable to serious derangement, and moreover, where the derangement of one part does not necessarily or probably extend its consequences beyond the stoppage of a few looms or a few bands out of the whole number employed, the reasons may be valid for not allowing time lost by breakage of machinery to be made up. But the case of the bleaching and finishing and dyeing works is different. The machinery is cumbersome and heavy, and much more liable to derangement by sudden jerks, which break or displace small portions of it. A stoppage from such a cause in one department of the work will cause a derangement of work in all the processes subsequent to the one in which the breakage occurred, and occasionally in previous ones also. Those stoppages seldom amount to many hours at a time, but unless they could be made up within a short interval, much inconvenience and disappointment might be occasioned both to the owner of the

works and to the merchant, by the former not being able to fulfil a promise of sending home goods by a certain day. I would therefore respectfully submit that any time so lost might be recovered as follows: If the stoppage amounted to not exceeding four hours, it might be recovered by working not exceeding four hours after the usual hour of ceasing work for females and boys in the evening of the day in which the stoppage occurred; and every hour exceeding four might be recovered at the rate of two hours per day until it was so recovered. Notice of the time lost, and of its being in course of being recovered, should be forthwith sent by post to the inspector. Time lost by a deficient supply of water, or by flood or fouling of water,* should be allowed to be recovered in the same manner.

VIII.—Another peculiarity applicable principally to the dyeing and finishing, or calendering and finishing (which comes within the more general designation of finishing), and partially to the bleaching and finishing works, especially those at and near Manchester, wherever finishing machinery is used, requires to be considered.

The circumstances of the trade very often make it more expedient to begin the work of the day at 7 o'clock than at an earlier hour, more particularly in the winter months, in the numerous smaller finishing works at and near Manchester, and also in some bleach-works both in England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Factory Act allows the owner of a factory, by giving previous notice to the inspector, to fix the hours of work for females and boys from 7 to 7 instead of from 6 to 6 (with a half holiday on Saturday), between the 30th October and the 1st April. I think sufficient ground is shown (Evidence, pp. 57, 58) for considering whether, in the cases in question, the permission, if granted at all, should not be extended to the whole year. But I fear that it would be impossible to guard such permission from abuse. The practice would in such a case very probably be adopted throughout the trade; some of the men beginning work at 6, and some of the females and boys at 7. The undesirable habit would be thus established for the latter, of working from 7 to 7 the year through, instead of from 6 to 6 or half-past 6 as proposed. They would thus be further excluded from the means of profitably employing their evenings, which they now desire to be able to avail themselves of, for their mental improvement, and also from due recreation at seasonable hours after the day's labour. Should the proposition (II.) be adopted, of allowing the hours to be from 6 a.m. to half-past 6 p.m. with two hours for meals, it might be added that where the females or boys in any work commenced work at 7 a.m., the time to be allowed for breakfast should be half an hour only (between 7 and 9 o'clock) and the dinner time one hour, and the hour of leaving off work half-past 6. This would give 10 working hours, and reduce the extra-time contended for to one half hour only, the loss of which would probably be little felt at any works.

IX.—The last question to be considered is,—should this proposed measure, supposing it to be adopted by the Legislature, take effect within six months from the passing of the Act, or should a longer time be granted, to enable the various interests concerned to prepare to adjust themselves to it.

It is argued on behalf of the men (Evidence, § 439.) that so many of the principal bleach-works have already been extended, in anticipation of some such measure (the commencement of these extensions dating from a year and a half or two years ago, when the operative short-time committee began their endeavours to procure this proposed enactment), that there is no valid reason why such a measure should not take effect within a short time after its passing. I believe, also, it may be confidently stated that the classes to be affected by it,—the females and boys,—are very anxious that it should become law with as little delay as possible; and that, in England at least, they are quite ready to make any sacrifice of earnings that may be required on their part,† should such become necessary.

* This is more in reference to the linen bleach-works.—*Fife Report on Scotland.*

† The argument used by some of the masters that they would substitute the labour of adult males for that of females and boys if the proposed measure were to pass, will, I apprehend, appear to be sufficiently answered by the facts adduced by themselves to the effect that they would lose, by so doing, the means of training up skilled labour; also by the fact that the labour of adult males, being so much more costly than that of females and boys, would, if substituted by them for the latter, place them under a considerable disadvantage as compared with any of their competitors in the trade who should adopt means to continue females and boys in their employment.

Considering that many, and especially the smaller capitalists in the trade, have not yet commenced such extension; and that time also must be required to bring the measure to the notice of the merchants in the foreign markets, in order that they may have the opportunity of regulating the time of sending their orders by the altered circumstances here; it will be felt that some extension is desirable in the interest of all parties.

Mr. Scott suggests that the descent from the present unlimited hours for females and boys should be made by three gradations; that after the first year from the Act passing, the hours should be from 6 to 8; after the second year, from 6 to 7; and after the third year, from 6 to 6 (Evidence § 333).

Referring to the preparations already made by many of the principal employers concerned both in England, Scotland, and Ireland, it will probably be deemed sufficient to grant an interval of nine months between the passing of the Act and its coming into operation; and, considering the great number of females in Scotland and Ireland working in hot stoves at a temperature of 90 to 120 degrees, and the excessive labour to which many of the females and boys in the English bleach-works are now liable, it would be felt by them to be a great boon if the Act could come into operation previously to the commencement of the warm weather of next summer.

The other localities in England where bleaching and dyeing are carried on, afford so few special features, that I have deemed it more convenient to place my report upon them after the two following, on Scotland and Ireland, the recommendations suggested in which have been embodied in the foregoing. A further suggestion in reference to the linen bleach-works is given in the last paragraph of the Report for the East of Scotland (p. xxxiv.)

SCOTLAND.

BLEACH-WORKS OF THE WEST OF SCOTLAND. (Cortox.)

These are principally for bleaching the various kinds of cotton and woollen goods manufactured in Glasgow and Paisley; also for bleaching fine worked muslin goods sent from Ireland. Among them are a few works for dyeing yarn and cloth.

In a statement published by the Committee of the Operative Bleachers' Short-time Association, at the latter end of 1853, the number of these bleach and dye works in the West of Scotland is given as "about fifty."

I visited 38, including all the principal ones. The proprietors of five others had, together with several firms included in the above 38, signified their concurrence with the objects of the association.

Regarding five of the remaining seven, I received information which showed that they presented no features likely to alter the general conclusions derivable from those visited. The two or three others, if they still exist, are very small, employing only a few hands each.

Leaving out of view for the present the six establishments for dyeing the "Turkey-red" colour, which will be the subject of separate consideration, I beg attention to the Tables given at pages 18, 19, and 21, containing certain statistics regarding the 29 other works visited.

It will be seen that the total number of persons employed in the bleach-works and the few dye-works now under consideration, is about 5,200, of whom nearly 4,000 are females. The number of boys employed is comparatively very small; and as few appeared to be under 15 or 16, I did not always ask for their exact number.

The employment of probably three-fourths of the females, and of some few of the boys, is in the drying-stoves.

The drying-stoves are, with few exceptions, of two kinds. One in which the goods are stretched upon frames in long rooms, heated to a temperature of from 90 to 120 degrees of Fahrenheit. In these, by far the greater number of the females are employed, and they remain in them during the entire working hours.

The nature of their work requires them to be moving about with little intermission. The usual numbers in each room are from 15 or 20 to about 30 or 40. They are necessarily extremely lightly clad; nevertheless, the temperature and the movements required cause, except where the heat is very dry, profuse perspiration, and the aspect of the majority betokens the exhausting effect of such employment.

In the drying-rooms for the finest descriptions of muslin, employing also a large number of females, the temperature varies from about 70° in the coolest part of the room to about 100° or 105° near the stove, and towards the inner portion of the room. In these rooms the females remain for about ten minutes at a time, spreading and waving about the pieces in the hot air until they are partially dry; they then repeat the process in an adjoining cool room for five or ten minutes, when they return to the hot room. They are thus alternately for those periods in the hot and the cool rooms. They are clad nearly as lightly as those in the stoves first mentioned. The frequent change into the cool room gives this species of work a great advantage over the former.

The age of these females appeared to be generally between 15 and 25; but in several works I observed in the stove-rooms many girls and a few boys from about 11 or 12 to 15.

The rest of the females, a comparatively small number, are employed in the bleaching department and a few operations connected with it; and a small number also in the "making up" rooms; but the latter work is of a very light kind, and not attended with any of the peculiarities adverted to in reference to the bleach-works in England.

Previously to the autumn of 1853, the recognized hours of work at the largest proportion of these bleach-works were from 67 to upwards of 70 hours per week; in addition to which, both at those works, and at others where the ordinary hours of work were more moderate, overtime was not uncommon.

Considering the great heat in which so large a number of females, and a certain proportion of the men worked for so many hours in the week, the question of the practicability of shortening the hours by mutual arrangement between the employers and their workpeople had been frequently under discussion; and in May, 1853, a formal proposition was made by a committee of the men, embodying the most friendly and creditable sentiments of the workpeople towards their employers.

The following is a copy of the memorial then presented to each employer, dated May 1853:

"MEMORIAL TO THE BLEACHING AND SCOURING MASTERS OF
"THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

"GENTLEMEN,—We, the operative bleachers and scourers connected with your establishments, being convinced that the present system of protracted hours of labour is fraught with many prejudicial effects alike to employer and employed, desire through this medium respectfully to call your attention to the fact, and solicit an alteration therein. We heartily deprecate the spirit of hostility and animosity that at times manifests itself in such movements—believing that the interest and happiness of master and servant demand that a good feeling should subsist between them both. We desire then to agitate the present question in this spirit, and under the control of this impression; trusting that our present appeal will show, that while we are anxious to enjoy what we consider will be a great boon to the operative, we have not forgotten that the master has interests involved in the question as well as the servant, and that we are not so selfish as to ask that which will entail any real sacrifice on your part. In soliciting an abridgment of the hours of labour, we feel ourselves bound to state, in all honesty, the grounds on which we rest this appeal. We therefore solicit your attention to the following:—

"1. We are firmly convinced that the present system tends materially to impair our physical energies, and destroy our health. Man being an agent of limited power, must, in the nature of things, sink under any form of labour, when that labour is either disproportionate to the muscular strength possessed, or when it is spread over such a space of time as leaves him destitute of suitable or sufficient repose.

"2. It leaves us no time for the cultivation of our intellectual faculties. We believe ourselves possessed of these. We feel that we are responsible to God for our cultivation of them. In order to be properly evolved and strengthened, we must have time to devote to it. Under the present system this is wholly impossible. Other trades are enjoying

the advantage of Mechanics' Institutes, &c., &c., and thereby improving their minds; and if no change takes place in our trade, the consequence will be, that your Memorialists will feel themselves degraded in the eyes of their fellow workmen.

"3. It wholly unfit us for discharging the duties, or enjoying the privileges, of the Christian Sabbath. Man needs periodic seasons of rest. If that be infringed on during the six working days, it cannot surprise us if nature demands it back on the Sabbath. We are therefore compelled to acknowledge, that the present system either forces us to remain at home, or renders us dull, listless, and haggard in the house of God.

"Further, your Memorialists are of opinion that such a change will entail no sacrifice on your part. The following are the grounds upon which we rest this, which we respectfully solicit your consideration to:—

"1. Man being an agent of limited power, it is perfectly evident, if he is overwrought to-day, either in regard to the degree or duration of labour imposed upon him, that it will be at the expense of to-morrow's strength. This is a fact that, whilst it can scarcely have escaped your attention as employers, can be easily substantiated, both by the evidence of the workmen themselves, and by comparing the actual amount of labour done. Taking this for granted, it follows, that such a system persisted in, is actually far less remunerative to the master than the other course would be.

"2. This holds true in regard to time. If ten hours a day be the average at which man can work cheerfully and well, it is clear that twelve hours will make him dull and fatigued; and therefore, although he continues two hours a day more, he will not and cannot perform two hours' additional work. If the *spare* be applied to him, and he master it one day, the next will pay it, and he will be far more than two hours short of his average labour. We feel persuaded there is not a man in your employment who will not substantiate this.

"3. In much of our labour a degree of care, vigilance, and reasoning is required. All such mental exercise demands a healthy and vigorous state of the body. Now, the heated atmosphere many of us breathe has an undoubted tendency to produce languor and weariness, which, in the nature of things, must operate, and that powerfully, against the bestowing of that care so requisite in our trade. A careful examination of work done in the morning, and similar work performed after a day of thirteen hours, will, we are confident, show that the work done at the thirteenth hour is either unequal in amount or quality to that done at the first.

"4. Other trades have the hours of labour reduced, and we believe the result generally is such as to corroborate our statement, that short hours produce more work, and that of a better quality, than under the old system.

"5. We would suggest to you, that your complying with our request would show that you were interested in the condition of your servants, and consequently bind them the more to your services, and stimulate them more and more to promote your interest.

"We have thus honestly and undisguisedly stated both our request, and our reasons for preferring it. We trust you will give it your unbiased consideration. Let there be no animosity between us. We have spoken openly, but we hope respectfully. We await then your candid and honest reply. Trusting that the reply will be favourable,

"We remain, gentlemen, your obedient servants,

"THE BLEACHERS IN YOUR EMPLOY."

Two conferences then followed, on the 17th of June and the 1st July 1853, and were attended by 13 employers and 26 delegates on behalf of the operatives; and at the second meeting, "eight employers expressed themselves favourable to an arrangement of 6½ hours per week, and five to 60 hours."

Subsequently, in the month of September 1853, another memorial, of which the following is a copy, was circulated by the operatives, and was signed by the employers, in the form and with the remarks appended.

"TO THE BLEACHING, SCOURING, AND FINISHING MASTERS OF
"SCOTLAND.

"GENTLEMEN—We once more embrace the opportunity of addressing you on the question of short time. We feel that it is not necessary for us to enter into a formal statement of the reasons which can be urged with the greatest propriety and justice in favour of a limitation of the hours of labour, inasmuch as they have been repeated so often and so forcibly, that they must be well known to and admitted by all. At the close of the adjourned Conference held in the ante-room of the Trades' Hall, Glasgow-street, Glasgow, on the first of July, it was remarked by an employer that "the shortening of the hours of labour is merely a question of time." To the truth of that remark we submit no exception can be taken, and think that the time has now arrived. On consulting documents relating to the commercial condition of the nation, we find that it has, within a very short period, attained to an unenvied degree of prosperity, which there is

every reason to believe will be lasting. We wish to share in that prosperity, to enjoy a portion of the advantages arising from an increase in trade; and in pursuance of that object, have earnestly and respectfully to request that our hours of labour be reduced to 60 per week.

"Trusting that this our reasonable request will meet with your ready approbation, and receive your steady support,—We are, Gentlemen, your obedient servants,

"THE OPERATIVE BLEACHERS, SOOURERS, AND FINISHERS OF SCOTLAND."

"We agree to this Memorial only on the understanding that the provisions therein contained shall be unanimously concurred in by the other bleaching masters. ALEX. COCHRAN, Jun. & Co."—Kirkton Bleach-works.

"I agree to this on condition that the majority agree to it. WM. FULTON."—Glenfield.

"I agree to 60 hours per week. THOMAS CARLILE."—Hogstonfield.

"We approve of 60 hours per week. WM. ADAM & SON."—Milnbank.

In favour of 60 hours per week.

WM. WALLACE & SON, Burnbank.
CLARKE & Co, 420 Gallowgate.
J. & H. MCCONNELL, Kirkcaldy.
WILSON & NAPIER, Bellshiel Dyeworks.

WM. RODGER & SONS, Carnylie.
G. HUTTON & Co, Queen-street Works.
JAMES MCKINLAY & SONS, Glenmill.
WM. CUNNINGHAM & SONS, Campsie.

"We agree, if acted upon by all the bleaching masters. J. J. and B. FLEMING."—Newlandsfield.

"We agree on the same conditions. JAMES YOUNG & SON."—Auldhousefield, 16th September 1853.

JAMES MCCONNELL & Co, Hazledenefield.

JOHN WALLACE & Co, Netherplace.

JOHN BARR & Co, Chapelfield.

WM. D. HILL & SON.—"Only if made binding on the whole trade; the present hours are too long, those sought too short. WM. HILL."

ANDREW CHALMERS & SON, Watersidefield.

"We agree if acted upon by all the bleachers and soourers. C. & P. STIRSAT."—Nethercrossing.

"We agree if generally acted upon. M. ROBERTSON & Co,"—Forfar and Lonsdale.

"On condition that the bleachers unanimously concur in the arrangement. BROWN & POLSON."—Thrusburgh.

"I agree to 60 hours, provided it is generally adopted by the trade. JOHN WALKER, Jun."—Castlehank, Partick.

It thus appears that in the course of September 1853, 23 of the proprietors of the bleach-works and dye-works (exclusive of Turkey-red) in the West of Scotland expressed their readiness to conform to 60 hours per week, some unconditionally, others provided all in the same trade would agree to the same limitation.

It was shortly afterwards ascertained that this general agreement was impracticable; but on the 17th October following the foundation was laid of another "understanding," which was then, or soon afterwards, entered into by from 15 to 20 of the employers, including all the principal ones, to fix the regular hours of work at 66 per week.

It does not appear to have been very distinctly understood whether this arrangement was to include a stipulation against working any overtime. At all events it is still objected on the part of the operatives that overtime has in many works not been entirely discontinued, and that in some works this arrangement has been in other respects broken through. It will seen from the Table (p. xxvi.), that the answers given to my inquiry upon that subject at each of the works named, agree very often with that assertion of the work-people, and show that the hours, although reduced from what they formerly were, are still, in many cases, longer than, considering the very high temperatures in which so many of the females work, can be deemed desirable.

I asked for the opinion of every proprietor of those works whom I could meet with, and, in the proprietor's absence, of his manager; and it will, I think, from the general nature of the evidence, be observed, that considering the amount of pecuniary interests involved in any question of a reduction of the hours of labour, the concurrence in favour of it to the extent asked for by the

workpeople is remarkable; and proceeding, as it does, from the humane and public-spirited motive of relieving those in their employ from a portion of exhausting labour, even at the pecuniary risk of the master, it places in a very advantageous light the general feeling of the masters in this branch of business in that portion of the United Kingdom.

The following Table, compiled from the evidence, shows how greatly those masters who are disposed to agree to the factory hours, preponderate, both in number and in the number of persons in their employ, over those who raised any serious objections:

Do not object to the Factory Hours, provided that all Bleach and Dye-works are subjected to them by Act of Parliament.	Number of hands employed when busy.	Do not object to the Factory Hours, provided that all Bleach and Dye-works are subjected to them by Act of Parliament.	Number of hands employed when busy.
1. Mr. W. Adams & Son - -	200	16. Mr. W. Cunningham - -	45
2. Mr. W. Wallace - - -	100	17. Mr. McKinlay - - -	140
3. Mr. McCole - - -	84	18. Mr. Pender - - -	70
4. Mr. Walker - - -	80	19. Mr. Clark - - -	60
5. Mr. Wilson - - -	55	20. Mr. McCulloch - - -	150
6. Mr. McConnell - - -	30		
7. Messrs. J. Young & Sons* -	360	20 masters employing - -	3,234
8. Mr. Cunn - - -	400		
9. Mr. Wallace, Nether-place -	400		
10. Mr. J. Cochran, junr. - -	260	21. - - -	Signed the Memorial in September 1833, for 60 hours.
11. Mr. J. Cunningham - - -	260	22. - - -	
12. Mr. Blackwood - - -	60	23. - - -	
13. Mr. Arthur - - -	200	24. - - -	
14. Mr. R. Fulton - - -	70	25. - - -	
15. Messrs. A. Hamilton & Sons -	330		

* In the same line of business as Mr. Fleming (see next Table), and would find no difficulty, such as that mentioned by him.

Objections.	Number of hands employed when busy.	Objections.	Number of hands employed when busy.
Mr. Fleming would find a difficulty, as regards 35 females out of the total number of hands employed.	280	If factory laws were applied to his works, would put up extra machines, and dispense with some of his female labour.	
Mr. Alex. Cochran.—His principal objection to the factory hours is, that out of the 700 persons in his employ, he would be unable to employ 35 females at night-work, in a kind of work for which the labour of females alone is suitable.	700	Mr. Haston, calenderer and finisher, Glasgow.—Works not always employed; their present number of hours 66.	44
But Mr. Cochran signed the Memorial of the operative bleachers praying for 60 hours per week, "on the understanding that the provisions therein contained shall be unanimously concurred in by the other bleach-masters."		Mr. McLean, yarn-dyer, piece-work.—Would not care to come down to 57 hours, but 60 would be inconvenient from the nature of the work.	50
Mr. Mathew Robertson, Forfar and Lomdale.—"Heat of stove moderate, only from 75° to 90°, and females only in the hottest part for 10 minutes at a time; therefore shortening of the hours not required for these works."	450	Mr. Alex. Harvey, yarn dyer.—Employs eight or nine boys and one female. If Act passed, should either get rid of machinery, or employ more boys to enable him to conform to the hours.	45
Mr. Buchanan, calenderer and finisher, Glasgow.—Heat of stove 80° to 95° and 100°. Works, when required, much overtime.	200	Seven masters employing -	1,760
		Two small employers, Mr. Smith, of Glasgow, and Mr. J. Geddes, doubtful. Mr. Geddes stated— "If he were to be placed under the factory laws, the merchants would be obliged to give him more time if they wanted an order executed promptly."	

Out of the seven coming within the latter description, it will be observed that the four last can hardly be considered as interposing serious objections, as they indicate the mode they would adopt towards relieving themselves from the anticipated difficulty. It will be seen, also, that the two first gentlemen on the list (employing, the one 280, the other, 700 persons) express their apprehension of finding themselves materially interfered with, the first in regard to 35, the second to only 10, persons out of the total number in their employ.

The hours of work on Saturdays in bleach-works and dye-works in Scotland require a different arrangement from those laid down by the Legislature for the factories. I have already adverted to this subject in the report on the English bleach-works, &c., but it is desirable to state it specifically, as I found it applicable to the works in Scotland.

In the factories there is no precise quantity of work which must be got through every day; they can, consequently, stop at any moment without any difficulty, or any derangement of the general progress of the manufacture.

Although the arrangements of many bleach-works and dye-works are such as to enable them to work a shorter day on Saturdays than on the other days of the week ($7\frac{1}{2}$ hours instead of $10\frac{1}{2}$), there are others, as those of the bleach-works for very fine goods, and some of the dye-works, for yarn-dyeing in particular, (see Evidence, §§ 696, 772.) where the machinery, the boilers, and the other accessories to the different processes have been so made and disposed as to enable the workpeople to perform the same quantity of work in a given time each day in the week; and it may occur in many such works, either that much cost would have to be incurred in their total re-arrangement, or considerable impediments be thrown in the way of the employer, or the risk of serious injury incurred, if he were to be limited to the factory hours, as regards his females and boys, on Saturdays. This question will be adverted to again in the portion of this Report relating to the bleaching of linen, to which the above remarks also apply.

Cotton Bleach Works and Dye Works in the West of Scotland.	Persons employed.				Usual Hours of Work.	Time allowed for Meals.	Hours of Work on Saturdays.	Total ordinary hours of Work per Week.	Overtime.	Temperature of Atmos.
	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Total.						
1. Wm. Adam & Son, Milbank, Glasgow.	40	10	180	*200	A.M. P.M. 6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	A.M. P.M. 6 to 8	66	Occasional.	DEG. FAHR. 90-100
2. Wm. Wallace & Son, Burnbank, Glasgow.	20	—	30	*100	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	66	In summer often from 6 to 9; sometimes 6 to 12.	100-130
3. Mr. McCole, Kelvinhaugh, Glasgow.	7	—	27	34	"Eleven per day not."	1	6 to 8	63	"Sometimes a good deal." From 6 a.m. to 12 p.m.	105 in winter, higher in summer.
4. Mr. J. Walker, Castlebank, Partick, Glasgow.	18	—	70	88	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	66	Occasional, but paid double.	90 in winter, in summer higher. 110
5. Mr. Alex. Wilson, Bellahugh, Glasgow.	5	—	50	55	Eleven hours net.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Occasional	
6. Messrs. J. & H. McConnell, Kirkcaldy, Glasgow.	18	—	15	30	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	65	Occasional	Dries by "extreme- ter."
7. Messrs. Fleming, Newlandsfield, Pollockshaws, Glasgow.	30	2	250	282	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	66	None. Some at night-work	90-110 90-120
8. Messrs. J. Young & Sons, Pollockshaws, Auldhousefield, Glasgow.	80	*10	*270	360	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	Occasional, and night- work.	90-110 90-120
9. Messrs. Fr. Wm. Crum, Thornleybank, Pollockshaws, Glasgow.	50	—	*350	400	6 to 7 Fridays 6 to 8	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	66	Seldom; usually from Dec. to Apr.	90-100
10. Mr. Wallace, Nether-place, Pollockshaws, Glasgow	40	—	*360	400	6 to 7	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6 to 8	66	Seldom.	100-105
Carried forward -	305	22	1622	1949						

* Approximative when most busy.

	Persons Employed.				Usual Hours of Work.	Time Allowed for Meals.	Hours of Work on Saturdays.		Total ordinary Hours of Work per Week.	Overtime.	Temperature of Stoves.
	Men.	Boys.	Females.	Total.			A.M.	P.M.			
Brought forward -	805	22	1632	1942	A.M. P.M.	HRS.	A.M. P.M.	HRS.			DEG. FAHR.
11. Mr. J. Cochrane, Junr., & Co., Chapelfield, Barrhead, Paisley.	30	—	230	250	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3	66	Seldom.		90-120 100-130
12. Mr. James Cunningham, & Sons, West Arthurlie, Barrhead.	60	—	300	360	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3½	66	None.		80-110
13. Mr. Blackwood, Arthurlie, Barrhead.	20	—	*40	60	6 to 6	1½	6 to 3	60	Seldom.		Thread bleacher.
14. Mr. Alex. Cochrane, Junr., & Co., Kirktonfield, Neilston, Paisley.	100	—	600	700	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3	66	Rarely.		80-95 90-100
15. Messrs. M. Arthur & Son, Crofthead, Neilston.	20	—	180	200	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3	66	None.		90-100 110-105
16. Messrs. R. Fehon & Co., Glasfield, Paisley.	35	—	35	70	6 to 7	2	8 to 2	63	Seldom.		Shawl washers.
17. Messrs. A. Hamilton & Sons, Blackhead-mill, Paisley.	50	12	300	340	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3½	66	Never. But night-sets occasionally.		90-100 100-106
18. Messrs. Mathew Robertson & Co., Foxbarr and Lonsdale Bleach-works, Paisley.	30	30	390	450	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3½	64	Never.		80-90 90-100
19. Messrs. Geo. Buchanan & Sons, Canfield-gate, Glasgow, calenderers and finishers.	110	20	60	200	6 to 7	2	6 to 2	62	Occasional night-sets.		80-90
20. Mr. Smith, calenderer and finisher, Glasgow.	40	2	10	50	6 to 7	2	6 to 2	62	Occasional no night-sets.		
21. Mr. Hutton, bleacher and finisher, Turren-street, Glasgow.	4	—	40	44	6 to 7	2	6 to 2 or 5 to 4	62 or 64	Frequent, when busy, and also night-sets.		100-110
22. Messrs. W. Cunningham & Sons, Campsie, Glasgow.	13	2	32	47	6 to 7	2	6 to 7	66	None.		80-110 100-116
23. Mr. McKisley, Glenmill, Campsie.	26	2	114	142	6 to 7	1½	6 to 3	66	None.		82-85 Average.
24. Mr. McLenn, Yarn Dyeing-works, Glasgow.	*30	—	*20	50	6 to 6	2	5 to 4	60	None.		None.
25. Mr. James Pender & Son, Cotton and Linen Bleach-works, Glasgow.	40	14	16	70	6 to 7	2	5 to 3	64	None with boys or females.		Moderate. Great heat not required.
26. Mr. Clark, Burnbrae, Millengarie Bleach-works, Glasgow.	4	1	36	77	6 to 7	2	6 to 4 (1 hour for break-fast.) 1 a.m. to 9 p.m., and, at times, 30 hours at a stretch.	64	When busy much overtime. Sometimes from 1 a.m. to 9 p.m., and, at times, 30 hours at a stretch.		Very hot in summer.
27. Messrs. Alex. Harvey & Son, Govanbush Yarn Dyeing-works, Glasgow.	35	9	1	40	8 to 6	2	—	60	Very seldom.		Cool.
28. Mr. McCulloch, Yarn Dyeing-works, Govanbush, Glasgow.	110	24	10	150	6 to 6	2	6 to 6 or from 4 a.m. to 3	60	Seldom.		Cool.
29. Mr. Geddes, Govanbush Yarn Dye-works, Glasgow.	*50	15	1	66	6 to 6	2	6 to 6	60	Seldom.		Cool.
30. } Very small works, at 31. } which I did not receive 32. } any accurate statistics. 33. to 38. Turkey-red Dye-works, for which see p. 67.											
Totals - -	1074	157	3937	5223							

* Approximative when most busy.

On referring to the above Table, it will be observed, that the hours of work on Saturdays are variously stated as from 6 to 2, 6 to 3, 6 to 3½, 6 to 4, and 5 to 4; and that in some works two hours a day are allowed for meals, and in the rest an hour and a half.

It will be seen, in the evidence relating to the latter, that in most instances the hours nominally allowed for meals on the first five days of the week are two; but by mutual arrangement they are reduced to one and a half, in order to enable the work-people to leave off earlier on Saturdays. On that day they have at some works only half an hour (at breakfast), at others, two half hours, one for each meal; the total number of actual regular hours per week, exclusive of any over-time, do not, therefore, exceed those agreed upon.

I need not repeat in this place the mode suggested at p. 13 of the report on the English bleach-works, by which these hours may be adjusted, so as not to exceed 60 working hours per week.

I beg to direct attention to the instances of excessive overtime shown, in the evidence (§ 643), to have been of recent and long continued occurrence; and also to the cases of night-work for females (§§ 682. 710. 751. 783.), including young girls of 10, 11, and 12 years of age, who work occasionally 20 hours out of the 24 in a temperature of about 110°. Specific cases, such as the above, acknowledged by the owners or managers of the works in which they occurred, and the admissions of many others, as appears by the above Table, that overtime is occasionally resorted to, have disposed the minds of the employers generally to submit to a regulation of the hours for females and boys by Act of Parliament, and will probably, together with the facts upon the same subject in the portions of the Report relating to England, and to the linen bleach-works of Scotland and Ireland, be held fully to justify such interference on the part of the Legislature.

It will be also observed that very little weight is attached, in any part of the evidence relating to the bleach-works and dye-works of Scotland, to any supposed difficulty arising on the part of the merchants, or the necessity of executing or finishing orders suddenly for them.

This difficulty, if it existed in any force, was not held by the owners of bleach-works and dye-works in Scotland to prevent the mutual arrangement entered into by so many of the principal ones in 1853, to reduce their hours of work for the whole of the persons in their employ. Neither is it now referred to as likely to interpose any obstacle to the reduction of the hours of labour for females and boys in their works from their present usual number of 66 per week to 60.

On this subject Mr. James Cunningham observed (§ 701.), "Before we entered into the arrangement of 1853, we used to be pushed by the merchant and manufacturer, and obliged to work 16 hours a day continuously for a time, and sometimes all night. The merchant and manufacturer have conformed already to that alteration."

The present high price of starch and coal,—after wages, the two greatest elements of expense in their various processes,—are referred to as much more serious considerations than the loss of six hours a week of the labour of females and boys, or the possible loss arising from their not being able or desirous to reduce the wages in a corresponding ratio. (Evidence, s. 728.)

Two other employers gave me somewhat similar statements, and from the concurrence of these three the general effect of the present high prices of those articles may be estimated in comparison with a possible loss to the proprietor in having to pay the same wages for six hours less per week, even on the supposition that the loss extended over the whole amount of wages paid in his works. (Evidence, § 742.)

In none of the works did I observe any necessity for any compulsory interference for the purpose of fencing off machinery; and I beg to refer to the opinion expressed at p. xix. of this Report in reference to the same subject, namely, that the suggestion of an inspector would in all probability be sufficient to cause any particular portion of machinery to be fenced, which from constant familiarity might have seemed to the owner or manager not to require it.

The suggestion also made at p. xix. relative to the property of the owners of the works which would come under this proposed Act having a certain power to make up for time lost by the breakage of machinery or by the want of water, is equally applicable to these works of the West of Scotland.

BLEACH-WORKS IN IRELAND (PRINCIPALLY FOR LINEN).

I visited in Ireland thirty-nine bleach-works. I could only hear of nine more, seven of which were very small ones; and the whole nine were described to me, by persons acquainted with them, as not differing in their general features from those I visited.

The works at which females are employed in any number are those in which either linen pocket-handkerchiefs (Irish cambric) or fine cotton goods (muslins) are bleached and finished. Of these there are thirteen, the whole of which I visited. They employ all but twenty of the eleven hundred females whom I found employed, according to the statements of the owners or managers, in the whole of the works visited. (Evidence p. 79.)

Their employment consists, with comparatively few exceptions, in attending to the frames on which the linen handkerchiefs or the fine muslin goods are stretched, in the process of drying in the stoves, and in pulling them out to their proper breadth. The temperature in these stoves varies from 85° Fahr. to 95°, but as a general rule, the temperature which it is desired to maintain as most suitable to the work is 90°.

The usual working hours for the females in these stoves is from 6 to 6, with two hours, and (in some establishments) two hours and twenty or thirty minutes, for meals and rest. In a few instances during the winter season the hours are from day-light to dark, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

At periods of slack trade, such as the present, these hours are not exceeded; but when trade is brisk, or a quantity of goods is required by a customer by a certain day, the hours are extended at nearly all these works, for one day or two days in a week, to 8, 9, or 10 at night, and occasionally later. At one work, Mr. Hovey's, employing thirty-two females, the periods of overtime were, when trade was in a flourishing state, more frequent and longer, during three alternate months of the year. At another, Mr. Ball's, employing 100 females, the night work on such occasions continued during a fortnight or a month together up to 8 or 9 o'clock; and there is also a set which goes on through the night. At two other works small sets of females were sometimes employed all night; and at another (a new work) the whole (37) had once been employed all one day and night, and part of the next night.

The nature of the material manufactured does not admit of its being in demand in such large masses at a time as is the case with the cotton goods; consequently there is a proportionately less necessity for working overtime to supply such demands as arise. Also the daily intercourse by steam communication with the great shipping ports, and the greatly increased opportunities of shipment to the foreign markets, tend further to reduce that necessity.

Nevertheless, at periods of good trade the females at work in these hot stoves are in fact, as has been shown, exposed to the same liability to be called upon by their employers to work overtime, although not to the same extent as prevails at times in the cotton bleach-works in England, or in the cotton and linen bleach-works in Scotland.

Several of the largest employers stated that they did not like to call upon their hands to work overtime; that it was not profitable, often quite the contrary; and that they did so only to oblige a customer. They therefore expressed no reluctance to being prevented by Act of Parliament from exceeding their accustomed hours as regards the labour of females and boys. The appearance of the females working habitually in this heat (90°) seemed to me, as a general rule, perfectly to justify the expression of Mr. James Graham, manager of Mr. Ewart's works (§ 935), that "no girls are fit to work in this heat longer than the regular hours."

Almost the only gentleman who expressed any decided disinclination to a limitation of the kind by Act of Parliament was Mr. Richardson, of Lambeg; not, I feel assured, from any indifference to the well-being of his work-people, for no gentleman whom I met with in the course of this inquiry in Ireland has done so much to promote education and consult the general welfare of the people in his employ. It appeared to me that Mr. Richardson's disinclination towards any legislation upon this subject arose from a strong feeling that it was not required for the protection of the people at his own works; a feeling which I found to exist in a few other gentlemen whose works were carried on with a similar regard for the

comfort of their workpeople, where overtime was neither common nor ever carried to an injurious extent. In the case of Mr. Richardson's works, however, it will be seen by that gentleman's statement to me (§ 911.), that he had already made arrangements by which he would not henceforward have any occasion for employing any of his people overhours, and would consequently not be affected by any Act that may be passed upon this subject; and as regards the other employers above alluded to, the same remark is applicable, in so far that they stated, that without inconvenience to themselves they would be able to take measures which would prevent night-work or overtime for females or boys in future. (Evidence, §§ 944. 967.)

Mr. Richardson stated another reason against Parliamentary interference for preventing females and boys working overhours, namely, that as the process of bleaching was liable to long interruptions in winter, it was but reasonable that time then lost should be recovered when a favourable state of weather returned.

The fact having been by this inquiry clearly established, that the females in bleach-works in Ireland (in which are included the few dye-works) are, at periods of brisk trade, or in making up for time lost, liable to be called upon to work overhours, principally in stoves having a temperature generally of 90°, and as that liability will, in the natural course, be greater, and the period for which it will continue longer, in proportion to the prosperity of trade in these departments of labour; as many of the females so employed are children of from 11 or 12 to 15, and the great majority apparently between 15 and 20, or only a little beyond that age; and as there is no difference in principle, though there may be in degree, and therefore in the injurious consequences resulting from it, between such employment in Ireland and in England and Scotland, I apprehend that no ground can be shown for the exclusion of Ireland (as was urged when the Bill of last year was before the House of Commons) from any legislature that may be deemed advisable for England and Scotland.

A further reason remains to be stated against the exemption of Ireland,—namely, that several of the bleach-works in Ireland bleach and finish both cotton and linen, and are at least employing 100 females on cotton goods (muslins) exclusively. The owners of bleach-works, therefore, both in England and Scotland, would have reason to complain, if, while they were placed under restrictions as to the hours of labour for females and boys, their competitors in the same branches of business in Ireland were allowed to employ females and boys even all night whenever they wished to do so.

I found in the course of the inquiry that an impression existed in the minds of several of the owners of bleach-works in Ireland, that there had been an intention on the part of the Government to prevent the "beetling" engines, which form an important part of a bleaching establishment, from being continued at work all night, as the exigencies of the manufacture generally required them to do.

These beetling engines are superintended by both men and boys, the latter not numerous.

I had no difficulty in removing that impression, by taking upon myself to assert that there was not the remotest probability of the Government making the slightest attempt to interfere with adult male labour.

It will be seen from the Table I have compiled of the persons employed in bleach-works in Ireland (p. 79), that the number of boys under 18 which were stated to me to be employed in the 39 works visited (only nine that I could hear of being unvisited, and seven of those being very small ones) amounted to only 271. The great majority of those were employed at the beetling engines, and, as a general rule, take their turn at the night set; they have frequently intervals of rest, as is described in §§ 1,027. and 1070. and the work is altogether easy and free from everything injurious to health. At some few works the ages of the youngest were from 12 to 13; but generally speaking they were represented to be from 14 to 18, and nearer the latter age than the former. At two works they are obliged to attend the engines every night, besides during the day, but make arrangements for large intervals of rest; at another they attend them from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with the usual intervals; at another, every alternate week they take the night set; at another, they take it every alternate month. (Evidence, §§ 980. 984. 988. 999.)

So few boys under 18 are, in Ireland, employed at this work (though their number would doubtless be increased on a revival of trade, both in the present works, and in several that for the time have been discontinued), that if the

question of preventing the continuance of night-work in their case stood alone, it would very probably be considered unnecessary to interfere with it; but it would appear that much inconvenience would arise from any attempt at exemption in this case, inasmuch as, though not numerous in Ireland, many boys under age are employed in similar work in England and Scotland, who would necessarily be included in any legislation in respect to bleach-works; and in Ireland itself, were any attempt made to exempt them, the anomaly would exist of some boys (those in the stoves and the finishing-rooms) in the same works being prevented from working overhours, and others (those at the beetling engines) being allowed to work all night.

On the other hand, no practical inconvenience of any moment will be found, according to the evidence given by some of the principal gentlemen engaged in this branch of business (§§ 1004. 1008.), from preventing boys under 18 being employed overhours at the beetling engines as well as in the other departments of bleaching and finishing. Stout and strong boys are required to do this work; so many of them already approach the age of 18, that it would require no very difficult arrangements to place at the night-work those only who exceed that age. Already, also, a contrivance has been voluntarily introduced by many employers, by which they can dispense with the attendance of boys at these machines altogether. The only inducement for continuing them at all at such work is the opportunity it affords of training up a succession of men skilled in the management of the beetling process. It is probable that a certain proportion would in any case be retained with that view, and employed during the day. Mr. John Kirk, one of the largest employers, stated (p. 76) that, if an Act passed excluding the boys at these machines from night-work, he should substitute a simple application of machinery for half the number he now employed (40), and retain the other half.

Mr. Hunter's remark (p. 78), that it is "hard upon the capitalist, while exposed" (as he is) to the competition of foreign countries, to keep his capital idle thirteen "and a half hours out of the 24," was made in reference to his suggestions that relays of females might be permitted for night-work, and that the proposed Act should not be made to apply to females above 30 years of age;—suggestions which will probably be pressed upon the Legislature from other quarters, but to which the objections, as stated at p. xv. of this Report, are sufficiently obvious.

The regular hours of work at nearly all these bleach-works and dye-works being from 6 to 6, with two hours or upwards for meals and rest, they will experience no difficulty in conforming to the factory hours, if required. At the same time the permission should be allowed to them already adverted to in my Report for England, namely, to continue their present practice, including the same hours for Saturdays (from 6 to 6 with two hours for meals), if those hours would better suit the arrangements of any work, provided the hours of actual work do not exceed 10 per day, and 60 hours per week. Considering the great and exhausting heat in the stoves where nearly the whole of these females work, they probably derive more benefit from a full hour's rest in a cooler temperature daily at breakfast time, than they would by limiting that period to half an hour, for the sake of leaving off at 2 o'clock on Saturdays. By some extra exertion, or by considerate arrangements of their employers, they appear generally, as it is, to be able to leave off on Saturdays at 4, or in some cases at 3 o'clock.

The remarks relative to the fencing of machinery made in my Report for England and Scotland equally apply to Ireland,—namely, that I saw no necessity in any of these bleach-works or dye-works for any power being granted by the Legislature to cause dangerous portions of machinery to be fenced. Accidents were said to be exceedingly rare, and I observed in a great number of instances that portions of machinery which were thought dangerous were already securely fenced off. The few accidents which were mentioned to me had arisen from the gross carelessness of those who unfortunately suffered by them, and could not have been prevented by any fencing of machinery at all practicable.

In the "making-up" rooms, called in Ireland "lapping" rooms, where attached to the bleach or dye-works, very few females or boys are employed. The "making-up" is in many instances performed at a separate establishment in the neighbouring town. Where it makes a part of the premises on which steam-power is employed, it will come under the regulations as to the labour of females and boys of the proposed Bill.

EAST OF SCOTLAND.

EAST OF SCOTLAND LINEN CLOTH AND LINEN YARN BLEACH-WORKS.

THE bleaching of linen cloth and linen yarn in Scotland is principally carried on near the towns of Perth, Dundee, Arbroath, Montrose, Aberdeen, Dunfermline, Mark-Jack, Leslie, and Kirkcaldy. There are a few works, chiefly small ones, in other localities in the east of Scotland.

I visited 21 of these bleach-works, which included nearly all the principal ones. The leading features of all, both the greater and smaller, were so similar, that there appeared to be no necessity for visiting the few omitted.

The occupation is a very healthy one, much of it consisting of out-door work, in spreading or gathering up the cloth or yarn upon the grass, or shaking the yarn stretched on poles, or in putting the material through the various washing, hoiling and steeping processes in well covered and airy buildings.

The number of females employed in the 21 works which I visited was about 618, and the number of boys about 223. (Evidence, p. 90.) To these are to be added those that may be employed in the works which I omitted, which do not, I believe, exceed a dozen in number, and those principally small ones.

At one work (Messrs. Patton and Brown's, near Perth), the account given me by Mr. Daniel Forbes, one of the managers, was, that their regular hours of work for five of their females in the bleaching department were from 2 a.m. to 8 at night, with two hours allowed for meals.

At the beetling machines, they had ten females, who went on from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. one day, and the next day from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. on the day following.

Mr. Forbes very naturally added that "they had all laboured greatly to get "the hours shortened. They are generally so tired that if they sit down they "are asleep in a minute."

At a neighbouring work (Mr. Turnbull's, Huntingtower), that gentleman stated, that in the beetling process he had "15 females and 15 men, and that the hours of work when they were busy were thus arranged: "They begin at "6 a.m., and from 12 o'clock, after an hour for breakfast, they can go on for three "days with three quarters of an hour's work every three hours. But the general "hours of work are from 6 to 9 or to half-past 10 at night, with those intervals "of three hours after every three quarters of an hour. They go home at half-past "10 or 11 p.m., and come again at 6 a.m." In the drying and "bluing" department, Mr. Turnbull stated that he had twenty females, and in the "making up" room seven. "Though their regular hours are from 6 to 6, the latter are called upon "when we are busy, as we were nearly all last year," to work from "6 a.m. to 8 p.m. (including six boys), and the former sometimes from 4 a.m. to "8 p.m."

Mr. Turnbull, who has bestowed much care and expense upon the improvement and comfort of his workpeople, very properly added,

"Although I might be put to considerable inconvenience in these works by night-work being stopped, I would willingly submit to it, and put on men to work instead, in order to put an end to the immorality that must occur in the country by the present arrangement. The chief effect would be to reduce the wages of the women. There may be some difficulty in conforming to the Factory hours, but I believe it will be all got over."

At the work of Mr. Spottiswode, also near Perth, where about 25 females are employed, although the usual hours in summer are from 6 to 6, there is occasional overtime, "often in summer to 8 or 9 o'clock; and the beetlers, who go on all night, are in sets of two men and four women."

At the works of Messrs. Marshall, near Perth, in busy times, from six to twelve females in the hoiling-house, and six or seven in the drying-house, begin work at 2 o'clock a.m. and may return home for an hour or two from 4 to 6, at which latter hour their regular day's work commences, and they go on till 6 p.m., with two hours for meals. Three others in the "making up" room generally go on to 7 p.m. In the beetling process twelve females are employed from 9 p.m. to about 10 preparing the work for the night. They then go home and return at 6 a.m.

Mr. Wm. Marshall, in his evidence (p. 83), explains the nature of the work connected with the beetling machines. It is not of a continuous kind, or laborious while it lasts. The cloth, according to its various qualities, is subject to a shorter or a longer process of beating by heavy beaters worked by machinery.

It requires to be turned or changed on the looms sometimes once in three hours, sometimes at a longer interval. The females or boys may be occupied for half an hour or three quarters of an hour at the work of turning or changing the cloth, after which they have the intervals of two and a half, three, or four hours unoccupied, as above described. They can, therefore, take some sleep during those intervals, both at night and during the day. But those intervals, when they have nothing to do, form the objection to the employment of females at the work at night, to which Mr. Turnbull adverts in the extract from his evidence above quoted.

At five other works, also, I found that there were a few females employed in this way at night, either habitually or occasionally. Mr. Sandimam, at whose works seven females work with men at the beetling process at night, deprecates legislative interference, which he considers unnecessary, on the ground of the experience of works like his own, where such precautions as the nature of the case admits of appear to be taken, and where much care is shown generally for the well-being of the persons in his employ. (p. 83.)

The general hours of work for the rest of the females and boys in the above and the other works visited were described as from 6 to 6 in summer, including two hours for meals, and from 7 to 6 in winter, including one hour for dinner. In a few instances those hours were slightly varied for local convenience.

The occasions in which these hours would be exceeded for females and boys vary with the demands of the trade. At periods of brisk trade the hours are exceeded, more or less, at most of the above works, according to the particular demands at the moment. In some, the females and boys would be called upon to continue at work to 8, 9, or 10 o'clock, and occasionally later, for a night or two at a time, sometimes for more than that. At others the occasions would be less frequent, and the duration of work less. It was the unanimous opinion of those owners and managers with whom I came into communication, that overtime was neither desirable for the workpeople, nor profitable to their employers. They stated that their sole reasons for ever working overtime were two, 1st, to oblige a customer who might require an order to be executed promptly; 2d, to place in a state of safety any portion of their goods that in the course of any of the processes might be liable to injury from delay.

The first reason was strongly insisted on by only two or three of the owners or managers of the works which I visited; and it was insisted on most strongly by gentlemen at whose works (such as Mr. Webster's and Mr. Duncan's) few of the evils of overwork and none of those arising from the night-work of females are found, which afford the principal justifications for legislative interference. This portion of the question has been so fully gone into in the course of the evidence and report for England, that it may suffice in this place to repeat the conclusion arrived at, namely, that the difficulties were probably more in appearance than reality; and that, in the words of Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Robinson, in the first part of the evidence relating to the linen bleach-works of Scotland, "a way would be found for getting over it."

It will be observed, by the list appended (p. 90), that nearly all the linen and yarn bleach-works profess to work only from 6 to 6, and the evidence shows that some adhere more or less strictly to those hours as far as females and boys are concerned. They have, however, in some instances been only adopted within the last year, "at the request of the workpeople," the hours previously having been from 6 to 7. This was the case at the works of Messrs. Webster, Salmon, and Co. at Arbroath, and of Messrs. Richards and Co. near Montrose, at which latter the manager, Mr. Petrie, stated that the hours had been from 6 to 7 for the previous thirty years. At the works of the same company near Aberdeen the recognised hours of work are still from 6 to 7; and although in the present state of trade they seldom continue at work as long as 7, they would do so if trade revived, and work overtime also if required, the time after 7 o'clock being paid for as overtime.

The above circumstances show that it is desirable to fix and make uniform by legislation the arrangements which have been already voluntarily adopted in so many instances in the trade. Deviations from it would be thus prevented, which, when resorted to, place those employers who adhere to the general understanding under considerable disadvantage.

At the same time I think it will be seen from the evidence that ample reasons are given for the adoption of an arrangement, with regard to the precise limits

of the working hours and meal times, different from that laid down for the regulation of the hours of labour of females and boys in factories.

In the processes of bleaching linen and linen yarn, more especially in the case of the latter, it is clearly shown by the most unexceptionable testimony (Evidence, pp. 84, 85, and 86.) that, in consequence of the varying qualities, and therefore the varying quantities in a given space of the different kinds of goods, it is impossible to say within a few minutes how long it may take to bring a particular batch through certain processes, and place them in a safe state, and in due course of preparation for the next.

At all these linen and yarn bleach-works, therefore, the workpeople are accustomed either to leave off a few minutes before the recognised meal-time or hour of stopping in the evening, or to go on a few minutes beyond them, according to the exigencies of the moment.

These deviations appear seldom to amount to more than ten minutes either way; and an account is kept of them, with more or less accuracy, at different works, so as to satisfy the workpeople that the hours of actual work do not exceed 60 in the whole week.

On Saturdays the arrangements vary at different works, according to their situation and other circumstances; but the general result is, that either by beginning a little earlier than 6, or by curtailing their meal-times, or by both means united, they leave off earlier on that day; at some works at 2, at others at 3, 4, or 5.

As a general rule, also, it may be stated that the mechanical arrangements of the works and the exigencies of the various processes require that very nearly if not quite the same amount of material must be got through on Saturdays as on any other day.

This being so, it may be convenient to repeat in this place the conclusions on this portion of the subject, which I have stated more fully in the Report for England (p. xviii.), namely, that it will probably satisfy the object of protecting the females and boys engaged at these employments from overbours of work, if it should be enacted that, if at any work to which the proposed Act will apply, the meal-times shall on every working day (except Saturday) be two hours per day, it shall be lawful to employ females and boys from the hour of 6 a.m. to the hour of half-past 6 p.m.; and that on Saturdays it shall be lawful to employ females and boys before the hour of 6 in the morning, provided the total hours of work on that day do not exceed 10, and provided also the total hours of work during the whole week do not exceed 60.

SUGGESTION.

X. To the suggestions embodied in the portion of the Report relating to England (pp. xviii. to xx.) there is another provision which the circumstances of the linen and linen yarn bleach-works imperatively require. In consequence of so large a portion of these processes going on in the open air, and their goods being exposed for long periods upon the grass, it will be necessary, as explained in the evidence of Dr. Boase, M.D. (p. 84) and several other gentlemen (p. 85, 86), to enable them, on emergencies arising from the state of the weather, to employ the labour of females and boys after the hours above described. It appears from the concurrent testimony of those gentlemen that the occasion will not be likely to arise more than a dozen times in the year; that a record of the necessity when it arises could be easily kept in a book at the office, and be shown to an inspector when required; and that from the nature of the case no abuse would be likely to arise therefrom.

TURKEY-RED DYE-WORKS.

THE business of dyeing the colour called Turkey-red is carried on by six firms in the West of Scotland, and at one work, that of Mr. Steiner, at Church, near Accrington in Lancashire.

The processes in Scotland are carried on, like those of the bleaching of linen, to a great extent in the open air, and are therefore dependent upon the state of the weather.

It takes, according to the evidence of Mr. Graham (p. 67), 21 processes to complete the dyeing of Turkey-red, and each process occupies a day.

All the works accordingly are so "laid out" as to permit of a certain quantity being put through one of these processes every day. The whole 21 processes go on simultaneously, each with a similar quantity of cloth. The hours of work on Saturday must therefore be as long as those of any other day.

At all the Turkey-red works in Scotland the usual hours of work are from 6 to 6, with 2 hours for meals. The nature of the manufacture does not admit of any overtime beyond what may be occasionally necessary in consequence of the state of the weather, and the overtime is then necessarily limited by the duration of the light favourable for processes incidental to the dyeing, during which the cloth is exposed upon the grass.

The evidence (pp. 68 to 72) shows that, in the Turkey-red dyeing-works in Scotland, the females and boys need no legislative protection from excess of labour. There appeared, however, to be a feeling among some of the gentlemen owning and managing these works, that provided they were not prevented from employing their females and boys for 10 hours on Saturdays, and provided also they were enabled in cases of emergency arising from weather to begin a little before or leave off a little after 6, (as already suggested, p. 29.) they would not object to be all placed on the footing of 10 hours per day, with 2 hours for meal-times. One firm, Messrs. Fleming and Watson (p. 71), stated that "they would rather have the Bill than not," §§ 870. 873.; under the impression that some of their competitors exceeded the hours (10 a day) that are usual in the trade.

The excess adverted to takes place principally, I believe, in the Turkey-red dye-works of Mr. Steiner, above mentioned, whose processes differ materially from those of the Scotch works, as they are carried on entirely under cover, according to processes perfected and invented by himself.

Mr. Steiner, it appears by the Evidence p. 72, carries on the business of a printer of cloth as well as that of a dyer by commission and for sale.

In the first capacity he comes under the provisions of the Act 8 & 9 Vict. c. 29, to regulate the labour of children, young persons, and females in Print Works; and by this Act he is enabled to employ, when required, about 110 boys and 5 girls for the hours permitted by that Act, namely, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.

Of the 110 boys, those in the oiling department (60) go home at or before 6 every day (§§ 875. 876.)

In the "mordant room" Mr. Steiner employs 17 boys below 18, six of whom are between 8 and 13. Their hours appear generally to be from about half-past 4 or 5 a.m. to half-past 8 or 9 p.m., with 2 hours for meals and rest.

In the dyeing department there are 60 boys under 18, who begin at 6, sometimes at 5. They generally leave off at 8, but sometimes go on from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and sometimes till 11 p.m. (§ 887.) During those hours, however, 12 of the youngest boys are engaged in watching the dye-vessels, and have three intervals of rest of an hour and a half, when they have nothing to do; some younger boys are only employed four hours and a half in the day.

In the "finishing room" there are four women and three girls, and "the general hours are from half past 6 a.m. to about half past 7 at night." (§ 890.)

The period of about twelve months, during which the hours have been as above stated, was preceded by about an equal period during which the work was "slack," and at that time it did not amount to "more than 5 or 6 hours a day sometimes." (§ 884.)

Mr. Steiner deprecates being placed under the restrictions of the proposed Act, on the grounds that the present latitude is essential to the prosperity of his business, and that he is already under the Print Works Act as far as relates to the dyeing which is "incidental to printing."

Should it be thought expedient not to exempt the dyers of Turkey-red from the operation of the proposed Act on any other ground, I apprehend that the latter one urged by Mr. Steiner,—namely, that he is already under the operation of the Print Works Act,—would not be held to be tenable, inasmuch as it is essential to the general purposes of the proposed Act that it should include all works that either "bleach or dye, by commission or for sale," in the same establishment in which they bleach or dye for the purposes of their business as printers.

I add a copy of the statement presented by Mr. Steiner during the last session to many members of Parliament, in which his claims for the exemption of the Turkey-red dye-works are set forth, with especial reference to his own case.

YORKSHIRE DYE WORKS.

WOOL, WOOLLEN STUFFS, SILK, AND MIXED GOODS.

THE materials dyed in Yorkshire are wool, woollen cloth, stuffs of wool and cotton mixed, worsted, woollen and cotton yarn, and cotton warps, and silk. The number of boys and females employed is not great, and the employment is a healthy one; neither are the hours of work habitually beyond the usual hours of from 6 to 6, with generally two hours for meals; and during periods of slack trade, such as the present, many firms have not always full employment for their people. On the other hand, when trade is good, there is the same custom of employing both females and boys overhours, and as long as the demand of the moment requires, as has been described in the cases of Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland, and Ireland.

Mr. Wilson Sutcliffe, manager of the works of Messrs. Ripley, Bowling, Bradford, employing about 400 people, of whom about 100 are boys and about 12 females, stated that at those periods of extra demand their hours were from 5 or 6 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m., and sometimes later, for six or eight weeks together.

Mr. G. Armitage, of Bradford dye-works, employing about 350 people, of whom 40 are boys, and 8 females, stated that their usual hours, when busy, were from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and that the busy time generally extended from April to August. The first-named of these gentlemen contemplated very little difficulty in confining the boys and females to the hours between 6 and 6, and the last-named stated, for the reason he assigned (p. 92.), that he should prefer it. Mr. Richard Watson, manager of Mr. Samuel Smith's dye-works, Bradford, also one of the largest employers in the trade (employing, when busy, about 200 people, of whom 50 are boys), did not anticipate much difficulty, and inclined to prefer that the hours should be limited (p. 92.) Mr. Joseph Moxon Kirk, of Halifax, who expressed a great desire to forward whatever might contribute to the well-being of the people in his employ (upwards of 200, of whom about 20 are boys and about 10 females), saw no difficulty in conforming to the hours which the Legislature might deem desirable for females and boys; and in this opinion Mr. Kirk was joined by the other employers in the dyeing business in Halifax, Messrs. Oats and Ingham, Messrs. Holmes, and Mr. Jonathan Smith. Mr. Refitt, employing, when busy, about 150 people, of whom about 20 are boys and about six females, stated that although their regular hours of work were from 6 to 6, yet, when very busy, they were sometimes from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and that two years ago, in 1853, when trade was brisk, they went on for nearly a year from 6 a.m. till 9 or 10 o'clock at night, endeavouring, however, to send the boys home at an earlier hour, and place men in their stead. It is obvious that boys could not stand continuous work to that extent for any length of time; but it is also plain from the above, that without an authoritative limitation upon such long hours, there will always be a tendency in the employers to keep boys and females at work to the extent described, whenever the temptation arises for so doing. The statement of Mr. John Crowther, manager of Mr. W. Shaw's cotton yarn bleaching and dyeing works, Huddersfield (Evidence, p. 95.), appears to embody a very just opinion upon this subject:—

"If the over-time is required, it ought to be done by men. It is quite long enough for boys to work from 6 to 6, with two hours off for meals, although the work is light."

The few employers in these branches of business in Yorkshire, who expressed to me any great reluctance that the hours for females and boys should be interfered with, laid much stress on the lightness of the work, and the frequency of the intervals during which they did not make full time. These were, however, for the most part the owners of the smaller works, employ very few boys, from four to eight on an average. It may be hoped, therefore, that their difficulty may not be so great in conforming to any general measure that may be deemed expedient. Some, indeed, of the smaller employers expressed no objection to such a measure.

Any disposition that might exist to substitute men for boys permanently, should any measure be passed of the kind contemplated, would be materially checked by the natural desire to train up a succession of young men accustomed to the particular business, well known to the employers, and presumably both better servants and more reluctant to quit the particular work.

The question as between the manufacturer and the merchant has been so fully adverted to in the former portion of this report, that it does not seem necessary further to advert to it, except to refer to the opinion expressed on the subject by Mr. Richard Watson, manager of Mr. Samuel Smith's dye-works, Bradford (Evidence, p. 93), to the effect that,—

"If we are not allowed to employ females and boys beyond 10 hours a day, the merchants will have to wait a little longer for their goods. To this we shall not object, because we frequently have to wait overhours in slack times. [Not employed in the earlier part of the day, but kept at work late by receiving a quantity of goods late in the day.] The merchants would have to send their goods earlier, or wait a little longer."

The same opinion is expressed by Mr. T. Hodgson (Evidence, p. 93), in the employ of Mr. Joseph Houldsworth, Wakefield, and practically conversant, from the nature of his duties, with this branch of the business.

WESTERN COUNTIES.

I HAD reason to believe that no females or boys were employed in the dyeing establishments for wool or woollen cloth in the western counties of England, or in any bleaching work in which machinery was used. As a contrary impression prevailed in the minds of some persons in Lancashire, it was necessary that I should ascertain the fact by personal inquiry. The evidence given at p. 95. shows that none are employed.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, &c.

HOSIERY, LACE, AND SILK TRADES.

FOR the same reason it was necessary to make a similar inquiry personally at Nottingham, which was attended with the same result, namely, that in the hosiery, lace, and silk trades, with exceptions so trifling as not to require notice, females and boys are not employed to work against machinery in the processes of bleaching, finishing, or dyeing; the nature of these processes not admitting or not requiring it. (Evidence, p. 96. Evidence relating to Tiverton, p. 97.) The same remark applies to Norwich (Evidence, p. 98) and Spitalfields (p. 99), and to the other localities referred to at §§ 583 and 1267, and suggest the propriety of omitting these trades from the provisions of the proposed Bill.

I believe that the foregoing Report embraces all the localities in the United Kingdom where the employments in question are carried on, with so few and unimportant exceptions that they could not in the least degree affect the general conclusions arrived at.

I have therefore only to reiterate the opinion expressed in the last paragraph but one of the first portion of this Report (p. xxi.), that it would be considered a great boon to the large number of females and boys who are now suffering from excessive labour (a considerable proportion of them in very high temperatures) if the measures which the Legislature may deem expedient for their relief could be brought into operation not later than the early part of next summer.

All which I humbly submit to Your Majesty's gracious consideration.

Witness my hand and seal this seventh day of June, A.D. 1855.

(Signed) HUGH SEYMOUR TREMERE.

L. S.

EVIDENCE.

EVIDENCE.

LANCASHIRE AND ORESHIRE.

1. **GEORGE CHAMBERS**, finisher.—I have been working during the last year for Mr. John Seddon, of Brighton. At these works, during nine months of this year (not consecutive, but reckoning the number of days), the females and young boys have been averaging, at least, from 15 to 16 hours per day; i.e., beginning at 6, and ending at 9, 10, 11, and 12. The hours of rest have been, half-an-hour at breakfast, an hour at dinner, half-an-hour for tea. During the other three months, the hour of stopping has been 6, sometimes 4.

2. I have been working thirty-six years in the bleach-trade. The above has been the habit of the trade during all the time I have known it. It has been worse. Before the railways commenced, we used to work on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, all night. Those were our packing nights. This was the case with all the bleach-works about the town (Bolton). There are very few new works started since then, but they have all nearly treaded, or more than that, the number of hands employed; and the same number of hands will now do double the quantity of work, through the improvements of machinery.

3. There is nothing in the present state of the machinery, or mode of working, which makes these long hours necessary. Quite the contrary. They may stop any part of the process of manufacture at two minutes' notice, without the least risk of injuring any portion of the finishing work. With regard to the bleaching, they may take the young boys away from the washing, and the females from the stitching. It may be necessary sometimes to leave the men. The finishing work employs the principal part of the females.

4. With regard to the dyeing, I have worked six or seven years in that trade, and I can say that there is no difficulty in taking away the boys at 6 o'clock regularly. I speak here of the general colours. I do not understand the Turkey-red dyeing; that goes on chiefly in Scotland.

5. I have five children at work, two sons and three daughters; the eldest is 21, the second 20, the youngest 18. This last week it has been 9 and 10 at night before they came home; sometimes it is 12, and 1, even 2 o'clock; and it very often happens that they fall asleep over their meals when they come home. My wife has been, for months together, waiting up to take care of my daughters. I consider that young women coming home at that hour of the night are exposed to great danger. At bleach-works they do not all come out at once, but by one, two, or three together, just as they have finished their work.

6. Generally speaking, two-thirds of all the hands employed in our bleach-works are females, or boys from nine to 18. There are plenty of boys at nine years of age; some few stronger ones from eight to nine.

7. From my knowledge of the people employed in the bleach-works, I believe that their education is very low; lower than that of people employed in other trades, as factories and foundries. I know that very few can write. There are few or none that are members of our institutions. The foundries stop work at half-past 5 or 6. My children have been very desirous of improving themselves in various ways, but they have not been able to command the time to give to it.

8. Very few can stand bleaching work unless they have a strong constitution, as it is so wearied on, or ever could. The work soon gives it up. There is one part of the work very bad, the "clamping," which means drying in the finishing stoves, where the heat ranges from 100° to 120°, but this is done, in England, generally by men; in a few works by females, but it is not fit for them; and the men who are employed in it look very ill. If they cannot stand it, they put them to another job. They work from 14 to 16 and 18 hours a day at this "clamping." There are several men hereabouts who have been obliged to give it up.

9. I have worked, from time to time, at the bleach-works about Bolton, Manchester, Stockport, Bury, and Chorley, and the system has been the same in all of them; that is, the long and irregular hours I have stated above. According to my experience, supposing good and successful bleach-works to be at work 300 and odd days in the year, the hours of work during at least two-thirds of that time, that is above 200 days, would be from 16

to 18, from the commencement of the day to the giving over. This is the case with the whole trade, with few exceptions; the exceptions are the works that are not doing well.

10. I have scores of times seen both men and children asleep at their work, and very dangerous work too. I have known many accidents happen from it. Much of the machinery is in a very unprotected state; and it is a general opinion among the working people in the trade, that they ought to have the interference of Government to cause the machinery to be fenced and protected. I have heard within these two days complaints of some machinery that was very dangerous. There would be no difficulty in fencing the dangerous parts, as in the factories. The expense would not be much anywhere.

11. My employer, Mr. Seddon, stands neutral on the question. I have, therefore, not been discharged for taking an active part on this Committee. Out of the 17 members of the Committee, we do not believe that any one of us has been directly discharged for taking an active part in this agitation; but as two have been discharged without, as far as they know, having done anything to deserve it, they are inclined to believe that it was so.

12. WM. ISHERWOOD, finisher.—I have been employed in the bleaching trade 16 years, always in Bolton. During the whole of that time the hours of work in nearly all the bleach-works hereabouts have been such as have been mentioned by George Chambers, i.e., 14 to 18 hours a day, for at least 200 days in the year. I once worked a whole week with only three hours in bed. I slept a little at meal times. The slack times, generally, are from five or six weeks before Christmas. They are generally pretty brisk about a fortnight after Christmas. Some bleach-works work on Christmas-day, and some on Good Friday; and I have often worked on Sunday mornings up to 7 or 8. There are several works where the foremen encourage the working on the Sunday, even during Divine Service. I believe this arises generally from bad management, and that there would be no necessity whatever for their working on Sundays, or there being long hours; if they were all restricted to 16 hours, the work would be regular, and the same amount of work would be done, and better done; I am confident of that. The cloth would certainly be better. When the cloth is bleached in a hurry they are obliged to use more drugs, i.e., chemical agents, which injure the cloth. Sometimes a whole order is injured by this, and the cloth is sent back.

13. MR. RICHARD FRANCE.—I was upwards of 20 years paid teacher to the Mechanics' Institute of Bolton, and during that time there were not two per cent. of the bleachers who attended my classes. I have been employed for the last 15 months by the Bleachers' Short Time Association, as their secretary. It was formed 16th May, 1853. It is supported by nearly the whole body of bleachers about Bolton. We have collected about 500*l*. Some of the hands are afraid to contribute; if they did, they would be discharged, they say. We meet twice a week, one committee meeting, and one general meeting. At the general meetings there have been as many as 150; generally from 30 to 40. At none of our meetings has any intoxicating liquor been ever allowed. This is a proof that we are in earnest. Our first act was to appoint a deputation to visit all our masters, to see if we could come to some arrangement. Mr. Robert Heywood was in favour of it, also Mr. Bealey of Radcliffe, Mr. Marsden of Burnden, Mr. John Seddon; we believe that Mr. Bridson was also favourable. Mr. Bealey and Mr. Marsden appear to have changed their opinions since. We believe that their greatest objection is to having inspectors coming into their works. [Further evidence, p. 8.]

14. JOHN WARING.—I have seen as much as any man of the disadvantages of our long and irregular hours. I am 29 years of age. I have been employed as a bleacher 18 years; and when I was 21 I could neither read nor write. Four of my uncles, and my mother, and an aunt, in consequence of the long hours at the trade, could neither read nor write. I had a sister, also, who learnt to read and write after she left the bleaching trade, and went to work in a factory. I had a brother in the bleach-works, but he died in consequence of colds caught at the work. The works that I have been chiefly employed in were noted for long time. With Mr. John Slater I worked 14 years; I worked for Mr. Thomas Cross for three years. For about seven years at Mr. Slater's, I think I worked generally about 15 or 16 hours a day, with the exception of a few weeks at Christmas. Mr. Slater employs about 100 people. He used to employ a deal more, at least 140; machinery now requires fewer; at least two-thirds were females and boys. All these had very little education. I myself learnt to read and write after I was 21 years of age; that was because I had more opportunity of learning, as I worked with Mr. Cross at drying, and we generally stopped at 6 or 7.

15. It has been commonly noted in this town, that the improvement of the young people, in consequence of the Factory Act, has been very great. We have in this town a Progressionist Reading Room and School. They pay 1*s*. a quarter, and there are better than 200 members, principally factory people. There are none of our trade there. There is the Bolton Mechanics' Institution, 320 members, and none of our body. There is the Bolton Free Library; the number of books that have been taken out in the last year were, by the artisans and labourers, 1,327; by the warehousemen and others, 117; mill hands (factory hands), 215; assistants in shops, 169; clerks, &c., 219; shopkeepers, 78; bleachers, finishers, and dyers, only 70. We are the largest body employed, with the exception of

factory and the iron trades people. Our total numbers in the list given to you are 2,800. The rate of wages earned in the bleach-works is not so high as in the factories, men are generally rated from 12s. to 18s. a week all the year round for piece-work. We would make shift for money, if we had the time to give to education and improvement.

16. In July last I was in conversation in the lobby of the House of Commons with Mr. Howarth, of Wallsend's bleach-works, near Belton. I said that we were prepared to prove that we often worked in the bleach-works 16 hours a day. Mr. Howarth said it was not so, for he was prepared to swear that they did not work eight, taking the year through. I said, if they worked only eight, it was no use for them to come up and oppose a 10½ hours Bill, for it would not harm them if they only worked eight. He said, "But sometimes we work 16." I replied, "That is just what we have come here for; we want to regulate it so as to prevent these great number of hours coming from time to time."

17. It may be asked, why do not the boys and young people take advantage of the slack time which they have from time to time to improve themselves, and to subscribe to libraries, &c. The reason is, that, although the work may be slack at the works, the hands are never sure of the hour when they may stop, and they are obliged to remain on the spot, for if they went home they might be sent for. This happens both in the bleaching and finishing departments. There are various sets in the bleach-works; one set would be doing the work in the forenoon, and the others waiting, not knowing the time when the work may be sent in to them. One party may have done soon and another late; they never know; so they are all obliged to stay.

18. One thing makes the working classes feel that they ought to have this Bill, that is, that, as machinery have been so much improved, it is hard that the labouring classes should not reap a corresponding benefit from it. We are aware that the improvements of machinery have benefited the trade generally, and therefore the labouring classes also, by extending the trade and employing more people on the whole; but when machinery can do so much that human labour used to do, we think that human labour ought to benefit, so far as to have more time for moral and mental improvement. We have no doubt that this can be done without any injury to the trade, as in the case of the factories, and indeed with a benefit to it.

19. We have stated in our manifesto that "no section of the working community is condemned to such long hours of labour as we are." This is strictly true. Next to the factories, the iron trade employs most hands, and they have a regulation of their own, and work only from six to six as a rule. Next to them are the bleachers and dyers. The dyers are not so much subjected to working long hours. Most of them regulate themselves, so as not to work more than 10 hours a day, exclusive of meal times. Some of them work long hours, and therefore they wish to be included in the Bill. Some bleach-works dye also, some do not. The dyers at some of the bleach-works are very eager for the Bill.

20. We do not believe that any people in the kingdom, except the seamstresses in London, work such long hours as we often do. We have collected nearly 5000. from the workpeople in the trade since the agitation commenced 15 months ago. The subscriptions of those who subscribe is a penny a week. We publish quarterly reports, which show how the money is expended. We distributed 7,000 of our manifestoes, and from 1,000 to 1,500 of our quarterly reports. Our chief expenses have been about our law expenses, in drawing the Bill, and sending deputations to London. There are 17 members on the committee. The committee meets twice a week. Each member of the committee who attends on Wednesday is paid 3d.; they are paid nothing for their attendance on Saturday night. The secretary and myself are the only ones who have permanent salaries, to look after the business of the association. Mr. Pearce is not a bleacher; therefore it is necessary that one of us, who is a bleacher, should be permanently engaged. The secretary receives 16s. a week, but the committee raised me ten pounds without my knowing it. This was about six weeks since. I had not applied for it.

21. By the Factory Act children of eight years of age can be employed. These are called half-timers up to 13, and they are compelled to go to school by law for half the day, or every other day. The masters in our trade would not like this, and very few so young as eight or nine have ever been employed in bleach-works. We therefore propose that the age should be 10, below which a child should not be employed; and we do not propose that they should be obliged to go to school half the day, or every other day. As the masters would be opposed to this, we are unwilling to go against them in this matter. We think they would get some education before 10, and then go to night-schools. There are many night-schools in the town, and near the bleach-works. My brother attends one of them, and he is learning very fast. He is 11 years of age. He has commenced going since he left the bleach-works. He is now with a coachmaker.

22. We see no reason, that is, the committee see no reason, why children should not be kept out of the bleach-works till 11. It is work not fit for children so young as nine or 10 to do—handling wet and heavy cloths, and being so long in heated rooms. They get wet at their work, quite through, in bleaching, as if they had been rinsed upon, and are constantly coming to the engine-fire to dry themselves when they have time. All the steady men in the trade would be glad not to have their children at such work till they are 11 years old. The others, who spend their money in public-houses, might not like it, but if they spent their money properly they would be well able to maintain their families,

although they kept their children from the work till they were 11. It would be much better for the children; they would make stouter young men and women, as I have noticed often myself, when they have commenced working later. It would be a grand thing if they could start at 11 instead of 10; it would be much better for every one; and as to their learning, they would learn a deal more between 10 and 11, which they would never forget. Their minds would be more capable of bearing it at that age, and it would do their characters great good as well.

23. The quantity of children under 11 in bleach-works is small, so that if none were allowed in before 11 the masters would experience very little inconvenience from it, and they would have a better class of young people growing up. There could not be a doubt of that. I have worked nearly 20 years in bleach-works, and I am quite sure that if none were to be employed before 11 it would end in a good result.

24. I am sure that the masters, rather than be hampered with short-timers, would be willing that no child should be employed till 11, or even 12 years of age. I do not think that at Mr. Ainsworth's there are any children under 12; but we should be satisfied with 11, as that is as soon as they are fit to work in bleach-works.

25. Some bleach-works are far from any school; and if the short-time system were adopted, they would have to erect a school for just a few children.

26. We do not propose to legislate for adults. If this Bill were to pass, many men might still be employed those long hours, such as in the beetling process, and in the packing rooms, and in the bleaching wherever there was not improved machinery; but where there is, there are only a few men to look after the work, and the principal number of hands are boys and females, as, for instance, to 10 boys and five women there will be three men. This would be in a work employing 100 people.

27. In a bleach-work employing 100 people, where beetling is done, there would be 12 or 14 men at the work of beetling, and about 14 or 15 men in the packing-room. These men would not be affected by the Bill. The men in the making-up room, about half a dozen, might or might not be obliged to leave off with the women and boys and young persons, i. e., lads between 10 and 18, or better, between 11 and 18. That is our proposition. There would be about 12 in the clamping-room, and they might not be affected by the Bill. It would not affect adult labour to the extent that the Factory Act does.

28. In a bleach-work employing 100 people, which is a fair representation of the whole, the Bill would affect certainly the three men in the bleaching department; and some days it would affect those in the making-up room, and some days it would not. If the men were "straight" with the "hookers" (generally females), or if they had made up cloth as fast as it was booked, the men would be obliged to leave off when the women did. This would generally be the case. If the masters were to take on extra women, in consequence of this Bill, without taking on at the same time extra men, the men would have to work after the women left, the same long hours they do now. But the master might take on men in proportion to women, and then they would all have done at once. This would not cost the master one halfpenny more, as the work is all done by the piece. It would be a saving to the master in not running the engine so long, or not burning gas. I have seen the time when they have run the engine two or three hours for a few hands. At some engines they burn a ton of coal an hour, costing about 4s. or 5s. a ton. As to the gas, there are sometimes 25 to 30 lights in a room; and I have scores of times seen this number of lights kept up for several hours for three or four hands, instead of 20 or 30 that work in the room, for a little work that might have been done in the day time, and would have been if the hours had been restricted.

29. The masters alleged in their memorial to Viscount Palmerston (See Appendix A.) that the application of a 10 hours Bill to their works would increase the cost of bleaching, and make it probable that a great part of their business would be transferred to America, India, China, Holland, and Germany.

30. This is a point which our committee, and the labouring people generally, have very much considered, and we are of opinion that it would not be so. We think that with a 10 hours Bill the masters would reduce the cost of bleaching in many ways. For instance, as I have already said, extra drugs are used in busy seasons when there is a great press of work; and this is not only liable to damage the cloth, but it costs more to do it. Then, I have known that in such periods they have had to hire extra horses, while in the slack periods their own horses are idle; besides which, in these slack periods all their day-labourers have to be paid, such as the engine-men, millwrights, managers, smiths, clerks, carters, and these have from 18s. to 36s. per week, and there are a good many of them belonging to each bleach-work. Then, when they are not doing full work, there is all the interest in the capital lying idle. Then it is common enough, as I have said before, for the engine to be running for only a very few hands, and the gas to be burning; and I have often wondered that the masters have not turned their attention to that, because they must be often losing money by it. The manager often orders it, without the master knowing it, to get a few lots of cloth done. Besides this, all those improvements of machinery have "come up" within the last four years, and only about four masters out of the whole of Bolton are without them; they are called "bleaching machines;" and one improvement in these is likely to bring another out. But in the drying process it is only just lately that a new mode of drying has been adopted, by which one man and a boy can do the work of two or three men and boys. It affords a great saving both in steam and in labour. In

some works there will now, under the old plan, be 17 or 18 men employed in drying rooms, and about eight boys to that number of men; at smaller works there would be eight or nine men and eight or nine boys. The first of these machines has just been put up by Messrs. Eden and Thwaites, near Bolton; and it is thought that it will soon be extended to the whole trade.

31. They have "speeded" the calendering and mangling processes, and there is no reason why they should not speed them still more, or increase the quantity of work in other ways.

32. A patent has been taken out for a new mode of beating, by which the machinery would cost less, and it would take less engine-power to drive it.

33. In all these ways we calculate that the cost of bleaching and finishing might be reduced if there was any danger of losing the trade.

34. I know for a fact, that two years ago, when I was working for Mr. T. Cross, he used to give 30s. and more per "kier" or cistern full of cloth (for bleaching). Just after that the new machinery was introduced, and the same quantity of work is now done for seven shillings, which would make very good wages.

35. There is a new machine for dressing. It was the new machinery for bleaching that led to this. It was introduced about two years since. Before its introduction the men used to be paid 13d. a hundred pieces of 26 yards in length; now they are paid about sixpence for the same quantity, and they make better wages now than they did at 13d. Besides which, it is done quicker, and therefore is a saving of coal to the master. All the masters who have got the new machinery for bleaching, have got the new machinery for dressing. It saves a great deal of time. By the old plan only two to 20 pieces could be dressed at a time without stopping and changing; now, 30 hundred-weights are stitched together (perhaps from 160 pieces to 300), and are all run over the hot plate without stopping. At any of these works they could dress in 10 hours more cloth than they could bleach.

36. I do not think, that any one of the seventeen members of our committee have had less than three or four and twenty years' experience, on an average, in bleach-works, and what I have stated is what they have all often expressed; and we have frequently invited the masters, both by circular and deputation, to come and discuss these and other points with us. None have done so, but a few of them sent us letters in our favour;—Mr. Marsden, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Seddon, and Mr. Bosley of Radcliffe. There are no larger employers in the trade than these, except Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. Ridgways; and also Mr. Brison and Mr. Handcastle, who have two works each.

37. The masters say, in their memorial, that the supply of goods to be bleached fluctuates. It does not fluctuate by reason of there being any particular season for which goods are required. The orders come to Manchester for goods for India, China, Australia, and all other markets, at all times of the year; and the bleaching trade has nothing to do with seasons either for the home or foreign trade. If there were seasons, all the bleach-works would be slack at once and busy at once, which is not so.

38. In the masters' memorial it is said that, when the Printers' (Calico Printers') Bill was before Parliament (1845), the application of a 10 hours Bill to the bleach-works was considered by Government. If it was considered, the working men in the trade knew nothing about it; not one in a thousand knew it. None of our committee knew it. If the men had known it was being considered then, they would have taken some means to let the Government know their opinion about it.

39. The masters say also that, "from the evidences of the most respectable medical practitioners, and the Sick and Burial Societies, it is clear that the mortality in this branch of the cotton trade is lighter than any other."

40. We do not deny this, because it is only healthy and strong people that can stand the work; besides this, we are much in the open air, and the slack times give opportunity for recruiting our strength. But with all this, if we are better in health than the people that work in the factories, that is not a fair comparison, because they are not the strongest part of the community. We might be better, and should be under a more regular system. Besides, seven medical men in this town sent letters to our secretary, which I saw, every one of which condemned the long hours system as injurious to health; and twenty medical men of this town, out of about three and twenty, signed our memorial to Viscount Palmerston, in favour of our bill. One of those who did not sign, said he sympathized with us, but did not wish to offend the masters. The other medical gentleman keeps a public house, so we did not wish him to sign. The third is a gentleman in respectable practice, who is very friendly with the masters.

41. The masters say, in their memorial, that "children under ten years are not required in bleach-works;" that therefore to forbid their employment is needless. But children under ten years of age are employed in bleach-works; not very many of them now, but before this agitation began, a good many were, taking all the bleach-works together. The masters have been more careful about this, since this agitation began.

42. With respect to the clause in the Factory Act which obliges masters to keep the people from being wetted, we think that it is wanted in this bill. My master, Mr. Cross, has put up wooden shafts, which take all the steam off, and prevent its wetting the people at work. He also has the cloth passed by machinery into a different room from where it is in a wet state, so that the women receive it as it comes to them without their being

wetted as they used to be before. My master is a very good one for improvements of that kind, but his people work very long hours often.

43. In what I have told you in this evidence, I think I have fully represented the case of us workmen, and I do not think I can add anything to it on our behalf. [See further p. 44.]

44. ROBERT HEYWOOD, Esq., Crescent Bleach-Works, Salford.—I am proprietor of the above bleach-works. I have had them about 15 years.

45. I am favourable to the reduction of the number of hours for the work-people. When the reduction of labour in the factories was first canvassed, I was opposed to it as an economical principle; but I have heard from so many parties, both employers and employed, that great benefit has arisen from that measure, that I am quite disposed to extend that principle to the bleach-works. They are indeed not parallel cases, because the factories can supply themselves continuously with the raw material for their work, whereas the bleacher is dependant on the order which he receives from time to time from the merchants. These merchants carry on business at Manchester, and they are in the habit of sending large shipping orders to be executed immediately. They defer giving their orders until the last moment, with the view of watching the state of the market. While the market is falling they put off their orders until the last moment, which, of course, causes a great push in the bleaching. Formerly, that is more than 50 years ago, cloth used to take a long time bleaching; since then there have been various improvements in the process, by the introduction of machinery and chemical means chiefly, so that now it takes only a few days. If necessary, it can be done in two or three days; that is, a small quantity; but it might rather deteriorate the cloth.

46. The work is chiefly piece-work, and the men are therefore, to a certain extent, parties to the long hours, when they do come; but they are unwilling to let the work go to other employers, especially if they have been short of work for a time before. It may happen sometimes that a bleacher may have an offer of a great number of pieces, provided he can return them in a certain time, for some ship about to sail. The men would often rather make extra efforts than that it should go elsewhere. There are works which are always full, and the excessive labour is in them continuous.

47. Several large bleach-works have been very much extended during the last eight years, and their capacity of production so much increased, that even with reduced hours, my opinion is that they would be able to execute the same quantity of work in the course of the year.

48. There are various kinds of finishing required for different markets; the merchant does not know beforehand which particular kind he wants until the order comes. He therefore objects to having them finished beforehand. Generally speaking, he goes into the market, buys the cloths in the grey state, and then sends them to a bleacher.

49. HENRY WARING, Bleacher.—I have been 52 years in the trade; I am now too old for the work and am turned off; I was turned off about five months since. The last employer I worked for was Mr. J. Slater, Back of the Bank works; I was there 38 years and a month at their works. When I first began working we used to commence work at 7 o'clock on Monday morning, and six every other morning, and left off regularly at 6; that lasted eight or nine years. Mr. Samuel Worthington owned the works then. I then went to Mr. Slater at Dunston, two miles off from here; we commenced there working piece-work, and then the hours used to be 15 hours a day generally, sometimes more. I remained there two years. I then worked for Mr. Coe, who then owned the Back of the Bank works, and I was a freeman there about 14 years and six months; since then I have been under Mr. J. Slater there. Mr. Slater brought his own foreman, but gave me a place as washer of white cloth; and I had under me three boys, five young men, and two men. I was about 21 years at that job; during that time I think we worked mostly from 15 to 16 hours a day for 11 years. The rest of the time we were about 14 hours, within a trifle. It was all piece-work. I was 20 years and never lost a day; there were very seldom any slack periods; there was usually a "thrung of work," and we worked those number of hours. If a master wants this work done, and a man will not do it, he is turned off, and frequently his quitance paper is given him with a certain mark upon it; all masters know it, and they will not employ him. Those lads that used to work with me are now 30 years of age, and cannot tell a letter in a book. There are many a score in the same state. A little time ago people came to inquire about the different religions we were of, and many a score did not know, and did not belong to any. Formerly I have known many families who had never been undressed for a week; my wife was so many a time; but now this is better, and does not so often happen; but it is still very bad, often 14 or 16 hours a day.

50. Supposing the bleach-works to be put under the same law as the factories, if the master of a moderate sized bleach-work wanted to do the same quantity of work in the year that he does now with 14 to 16 hours a day, all that he would have to do would be this: it would take him eight to nine months to put up some more machinery, and he might have to employ one man more for every six men, and one boy more for every six boys, and girls in proportion, that is, one sixth more labour; and the work would be better done, so that the master would gain by it. Now they are so dull and sleepy that they mar their work,

and if they do so, it is sent back by the merchant, and the "hands" have to do it over again for nothing; although when they mended it, it was because they were worn out. It gets mended in the bleaching, because they have to use extra drugs when they want to do it fast; but even then, if the cloth is returned, the hands have to take out the starch for nothing, and the finishers have to finish it over again for nothing.

51. DAVID HASLAV, finisher.—I have been in the trade about 23 years. I have been chiefly in the employ of Messrs. Hardcastle, for about 20 years. I left them about a year ago. While I worked for Mr. Hardcastle, at the commencement, I used to work about 18 hours a day, with the exception of a month or two in the year, sometimes in the spring, sometimes at the latter end of the year. Five or six years ago, the work got more regular; less work came in, and we did it in 12, 14, and 15 hours. Out of that we had two hours for meals. I am now at work for Mr. Marsden, Burdett Works. We are making now 15 and 16 on an average. It was going on when I went there, and has been continued ever since. It has been going on for about 12 months. There have been working with me three boys, from 11 to 15; and five girls, one short of 11 years of age; the other 15, the other a little older. We start at 6 o'clock, and end at 9, 10, 11, and 12. These boys and girls have no more rest in the course of this time, except two hours for meals in the day-time. If they stop 10 minutes for supper, between 9 and 10, they have to fetch up the time lost. Sometimes they are very tired. I have seen them fall asleep while they have been waiting for the work. It is very often the case that they go to sleep over their work.

52. We commenced night-school several times when I was with Mr. Hardcastle; a teacher taught us gratuitously, and we have gone a night or two; and work has come in, and we have been forced to give it up. I can write a little.

53. RICHARD PAMINGTON, finisher.—I have been employed at this work for above 18 years; first with Mr. Sykes, of Stockport, for seven years; then for Marsden and Co., Stockport, for four years; then for Mr. Hayes, of Bolton, for about 4 years; then for Mr. Chadiab Ashworth, in Manchester, for 18 months; then for Edw. Holmes and Co., Tootle Bridge, near Bolton, for about four years; now I am working for Mr. Ridgway Bridson, near Bolton.

54. The objection made to putting the bleach-works under the same regulations as the factories is, that if they were, the bleaching trade would be driven away from the country. I do not think that it would be so. A little time ago I had a conversation with one of my late masters on that subject. He said, "You are engaged in a very dangerous agitation; 'it is a very dangerous thing to meddle with, inasmuch as it will drive the bleaching trade 'from this country.'" I said, Look at the old system of the cotton-spinners and the merchants before the Factory Act passed. The merchant used to go to the cotton-spinner and say, "I have got an order for so many thousand pieces of cloth for China or India, and if you can make them by a certain day, you shall have the order." The cotton-spinner used to accept it, and work his hands more hours; taking half an hour in the morning, i.e., beginning at half-past 5; cutting off 10 minutes from their dinner, and very often working them half an hour and much more, even to 9 and 10, in the evening; so he got the work done. Now the merchant does not say, "Will you do so much within a certain time?" but, "How much can you do?" If the cotton spinner cannot do it all, the merchant gives the rest of the order to somebody else. But the real fact is, that the cotton spinner has added to his machinery, and gets the same quantity of work done, or more. If he has not, those cotton spinners, who were not always fully employed before, are so now; they have got what the other could not do; that is where the Act has benefitted the smaller capitalist. This is just what would happen in the bleaching-trade. What the larger masters and those with the best connexion could not do, the smaller ones would do, who are now not always full. Out of a list of 19 bleaching firms in and near Bolton, about eight are generally full; the rest are not. Those eight are not the largest; Mr. Ainsworth's is the largest, and his works are generally in full employ. The chief part of the bleaching-trade in Lancashire is about Bolton.

55. Last July I was present in the lobby of the House of Commons, when Mr. Blair, of Mill Hill Bleach-Works, Bolton, made a statement to Mr. Fielden, M.P., and showed him a list of hours taken for the last eight years in his works; and it showed that, if the work done had been divided over the whole year, it would not average more than 10 hours per day. These are large works; they bleach and finish about 10 tons of goods a day. Their machinery is upon the best principle, and they have thrown lately 30 or 40 people out of work in consequence.

56. In 1844 I worked eight days, without ever seeing home or a bed, at the works of Marsden, Veltman and Co., Stockport; and for about 18 months following that, at the same place, I never saw home in daylight, except Sunday, neither summer nor winter. Since that I have been six or seven Sundays together, working from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening, having worked during the whole week 18 hours a day, and up to 12 o'clock on Saturday night. This was at Mr. Hayes' (now Mr. Marsden's) bleach-works, near Bolton. There were about 160 people employed. The whole of them were working 18 hours a day; but I was the only one, with a few lads, who worked on the Sunday, calendering. This was because the calendering was done by a water-wheel, and to save coal they would not lose the water on Sunday. I have constantly seen most improper things

going on, in consequence of the young women being kept so late at their work. They are very much exposed on their way home at such times of night. They are also often so tired that they sleep about on the works with the men and boys.*

57. It has been the same, as to the long hours of work, at every place I have worked at; it is so now. I have been working for the last two months with a new master, and when I left it has been 12, and sometimes 1 in the morning. There are about 20 in the same department, working the same number of hours, both girls, women, boys, and men. This is at Mr. Ridgway Bridson's, Bolton. Out of the 200 employed there, I think that two-thirds must have worked as long as I did.

58. I have a desire to improve myself, by attending lectures, and using the books of the Bolton library, and such other ways; but I can never be sure of my time, and if I subscribe, I am liable to throw away my money. I know plenty of young men and women who do not know a letter, and they would be very willing to learn and to improve themselves if they had the time. Those that have families, too, have no time to attend to their children; it is not the teaching only in schools that the children want, it is the being attended to at home, and taught what is right by their parents, and well looked after in many ways; that must all be done, if they are to grow up decent and well behaved.

59. JAMES BOOLE, finisher.—I am 30 years of age. I have been engaged in the bleaching trade six years. I have always been in the employ of Mr. Hollins, Tootal Bridge, all that time. During the last four months, in my branch, I have been employed from 6 in the morning to 10 at night, with the exception of Saturdays, when we left off from 4 to 7. I have had working with me eight females from 12 up to 20 years of age, and three boys from 16 to 18. During the previous eight months of this year the hours have varied from eight to 10 and 15 working hours, more frequently 10, i.e., from 6 to 6, with two hours off for meals. We have had "pushes" of this sort, from time to time, all the time I have worked here. I am unmarried. I do not think it right for young females to be employed such a number of hours; they often complain to me, and wish that this Bill was passed; many a time in a week they ask me about it. They are very tired with the hard work; they have to work all the time they are there, and I do not know how the children stand it. It is 11 o'clock before some of them can get to bed.

60. I have witnessed them come to their work in the morning looking so livid, that they did not appear fit for work. I have heard them say, many a time, they wished they could give over sooner at night, that they might not be so tired when they come in the morning.

61. JOHN HAMER, finisher.—I have been 14 years in the bleaching trade. I was employed at Messrs. Hollins', Tootal Bridge, Bolton. For the last four months I have been at work from 6 in the morning till 10 o'clock at night, except on Saturdays, when we left off from 4 to 6 and 7. One morning we went to work at 5 o'clock, and worked till 6 the morning after; all the sets were working the same time, I believe 20 and 30 hands; of these there would be eight females from 12 to 20 years of age, and six boys from 13 to 18. We have sometimes worked till 11 and 12, but to 10 has been the rule. We stop half-an-hour for breakfast, an hour to dinner, half-an-hour to tea. The girls and boys are very much tired after their work. It is very hard work. You have to work as hard as ever you can the whole length of those hours. It is piece-work; putting the rollers on and taking them off.

62. Before those four months, we were sometimes busy, sometimes slack. When we were busy, we were averaging 13 hours. It has been better since the agitation commenced for this Bill, about 18 months ago. Before that, we used to work on Saturday nights till 10 and 11 o'clock; now we always stop at 4, or not later than 7. But if we do not get this Bill, it will most likely go back to what it was.

63. By reason of these long hours, I have been, for those last four months, without seeing my children only in bed, except Sundays, or by chance on Saturday nights. My eldest is four years and a half old. My wife stays at home. A father ought to be at home sometimes, or his children will grow up in ignorance of many things they ought to know, and he ought to exercise an influence over them in bringing them up. If a father is at home he may often check his family, or he can instruct them a bit; I could get books from the library; or I could take my family to the park to walk about with me.

64. With these long hours I have been so tired, though I am a strong and healthy man, that I have often to sit at my bed-side when I get up in the morning, and my fingers are so stiff and sore that I cannot dress myself. If I feel thus tired, what must the young girls and boys feel? They look so tired, when they come in the morning, that they do not look fit to start with their work.

65. Mr. RICHARD FRANK, designer, secretary to the Bleachers' Short Time Association.—Sunday work has now been abandoned at most of the bleach-works, but it still continues occasionally in some of them. On Sunday last, December 10th, I saw the steam and smoke ascending from the chimnies at Mr. Thomas Cross's, of Meant-field, and I heard the machinery in active operation. Three different persons told me that they had been taking breakfast to their relatives, who were then at work. A portion of the hands worked there last Sunday but one from Saturday morning till 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, and then went to work at 10 o'clock on Sunday night.

* An expression of opinion on that subject has been withdrawn as objected to.

66. Between two and three months ago I saw a man going to work on a Sunday at Mr. Charles Whewell's, of Two Brooks, near Bury. I know it, because I asked him, and he told me he was. This was about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

67. JOHN WARRING.—I have seen men at their work on Sundays at Messrs. Smith's, Great Lever works, Bolton. I have seen them this last summer. I saw a man about a month ago, who told me he was going to his work there then, at 10 o'clock at night, after taking his wages to his wife (for he had been working all day); and he said he was going to work till 8 o'clock on Sunday morning. William Isherwood's brother worked frequently on Sundays for six months. That was two years ago.

68. WILLIAM JOHNSON, finisher.—I am 24 years of age. I was 11 years of age when I first went to work at the bleaching business. I worked first for Mr. Fletcher, Leylands, 10 years. I now work for Mr. Thomas Cross. At my commencement at bleach-works I began at 12 o'clock on Sunday night, and worked till 8 o'clock on Monday night; then we started at 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and worked till 12 o'clock at night; and we did that for two or three months without stopping. This was general in those works at that time, and was so all the time that I was there. They are very seldom slack there. There are better than 100 men, girls, and boys employed. My brother is at work there still. He told me, last Sunday but one, that they were working 17 hours. He is a finisher. I have been at a worse place than that for long hours since; at Mr. Whewell's, Two Brooks. I was 15 months there. They would average 15 to 18 hours a day for the whole 15 months. We began generally at 12 o'clock on Monday morning, and the girls rejoiced if they sometimes had not to go till 3. They stopped at 12 o'clock on Monday nights. This was the general thing. There are no regular meal-times allowed, only sometimes an hour for dinner; but their breakfast and tea they take as they can, and the manager does not like them to be long about it. There are about 60 hands employed. There are a deal of young girls, one or two under 10 years of age. There were employed in my room (the making-up room), 10 girls between 10 and 30 years of age, and four men. I have seen the girls, when they have been taking a piece from the pulling-up machine, fall asleep; one of them was not 10 years of age. The child looked as pale as a piece of the cloth. I have seen men take this child in their arms, and say, "they wished they could see it at London in this state;"—that is, so livid and wan from the work. I mean, that if they could see such things in London, they would know that there was a want of such a Bill as this. As to the older ones, I have often and often seen them down asleep, not being able to hold up for their work. If the manager had gone out they would drop down in a minute in the "packing boxes," and go to sleep. These boxes are to put the pieces of cloth in to keep them clean, and the girls have to hook the cloth up by one edge before dackling up. They often have asked me if I could tell them if the Bill was going to pass.

69. The men who have come forward to agitate this question are nearly all finishers. They are much more numerous than the bleachers, and the finishers have been better able, from their having in general a little better education, to employ themselves about getting this Bill.

70. Another reason is, that machinery is doing away with men's labour in the bleaching department, and substituting that of boys. For instance, in one work that I know, out of 40 men and boys, there are only 12 bleachers. Formerly such a work would have had 40 bleachers and more. This is why the bleachers do not take such an interest in the matter as the finishers. All in a work who are not bleachers, are one way or another finishers. The different departments in a bleaching-work are in their order as follows:—

Dressing-shop.

Black-croft.

This is the bleaching department.

71. Then come the finishing processes:

The mangling-press.

Drying-house and clamping (stretching) rooms.

Beetling place (making up the same as a linen place).

Calendering and mangling.

Making-up and packing.

72. The hot places are the drying, clamping, calendering, and stove. There the temperature is from 90 to 120°. In England not many girls are employed in these hot places; there are a few at some works. In one work that I know, where 150 people are employed, 12 work in these hot places. This is at Mr. Seddon's. At Mr. Fletcher's, at Leylands, out of 150 hands about 16 work in those high temperatures. At Mr. Thomas Cross's, Most-field, there are about 24 out of 110. All these make long hours, and generally they are the worst for making long hours. When I was 14 years of age I worked in 18 hour shifts in a clamp place. I worked in this way about six months on end. I was always stripped, except a pair of linen trousers. I was so tired, that I have sometimes given myself blows by knocking my head against a pillar that I had to walk by.

73. I worked for Mr. Fletcher, at Leylands, as I said before, 10 years. When I went away, he could not give me a bad character. He never reproved me in his life, that I know of. I left him because I wanted to better myself. I told him so, but when I left he would not give me a character. He only gave me "a quittance." The cause was, he did not

want me to leave. He said, "he had brought me up to what I was." I was then 22. He had put me to a part of the business (the store), which was a worse job than what I had before; and I did not like it, so I wanted to go. I applied to many masters, but I suppose it was because I did not bring a character with me. I did not get employment for nine weeks. I do not think there is any man on the committee of working men who are endeavouring to get this Bill adopted, whose characters will not stand investigation.

74. [The following witness stated, "If what I have said is published with my name, I shall lose my situation. I expect my master would turn me off, and I should not do anything that would injure my wife and family. I have worked for my present master nine years. He might turn me off, and hinder me from getting work at other places. My master has never had any cause to complain of me, nor I of him. There is no steadier man for minding my work than I am."^{*}

75. This witness is well known to the Committee as being a steady man.]

76. JOHN WARREN—I am well acquainted with the witness who has expressed a wish that his name should not be published. He is known to the Committee as a steady, trustworthy man. There are hundreds like him in the bleach-works, who wish for the bill very much, but are afraid to come forward. They are afraid that their masters would turn them off. If they were to be turned off without a "quittance paper," or with a "quittance paper," marked in a peculiar way, they would not get another master to take them.^{*}

77. JOHN SOULES,† finisher.—I am 42 years of age. I am working for Messrs. Blair and Sumner, Mill-hill, and have been in their employ nearly nine years. I have been always in the finishing department. We now start sometimes at 4 and 5 in the morning, and continue till 7 and 8 at night; we have done that for the last few days. Before that, we have not been very busy for some months back. We have been sometimes, during the year, for about two or three months at a spell. We were then making about 14 hours a day, not reckoning meal-times. My masters have the best kind of machinery, and get through more work in a shorter time. This is the reason why the hours have not been so long as at other works. They have been going on improving their machinery ever since I came to them. When I first went to them, we used regularly to start about 4 to 5 in the morning; and as we were generally pretty busy, we used to work till 9 or 10 at night. The improvements in the machinery have chiefly affected the bleachers, manglees, and dryers; but it has an effect upon the whole, as one party has to keep up with the other, as near as they can.

78. From the 1st of August till the 13th of September last, I took an account of the number of hours I worked. They were as follows:—13 hours, 6, 12, 14, 11, 18, 10, 12, 6, 13½, 11½, 11, 17, 13, 12½, 10½, 4, 10½, 13, 13½, 18, 9½, 13, 9, 10½, 12½, 11½, 7, 16, 12½, 12½, 12½, 13, 10½, 12, 12½, 7½. [Average, 11½ hours.] Those are the actual working-hours, meal-times not reckoned. This was at a time neither busy nor slack, a middling time. We have to work long or short hours just as work turns up. We should average longer hours than those, taking the year through.

79. There are about 100 people employed at Messrs. Blair's works; of these there are about 40 women and girls. All these work the same hours that we do. The females are from 12 years of age up to 26. There are about 30 boys, from 13 or 14 to about 18 or 20.

80. I am a subscriber to the fund to endeavour to get this Bill, but I am not on the committee.

81. SAMUEL PRICE—I am 52 years of age. I was in the employment of Messrs. Ainsworth, of Halliwell, near Bolton, for nearly 42 years. I was nearly all that time in the picking department, and I do not think I neglected my work for one hour during those 42 years. I was off three weeks at three different times from sickness, and that is all. I have been a man of temperate habits, otherwise I should not have kept up at that work. I am no longer in their employ. Last April the manager wanted to put me into another situation which would have been injurious to my health. He wanted to move me into the mangling, stoving, and drying department, where I should have been exposed to great changes from cold to heat. I should have had to go from the hot stove-room out into the cold mangling place every hour about. The heat in the stove-room is about 130 to 140 degrees sometimes. In the mangling place the temperature varies very much according to the weather. The change also is between wet and dry; that is, I should be wet in the mangling place for about an hour, and then into the hot stove again for about a quarter of an hour, then into the cold mangling place again.† I told the manager and also Mr. Ainsworth that it would upset my health, and I asked them to give me some other situation. The manager said he could not find me any other situation, so I left them. They have no fault to find with my character. I am still on good terms with my former masters, and I have two sons working with them.

* I did not learn that there were sufficient grounds to justify this apprehension.

† By accident this witness's name became known to his employers, but I feel assured that those gentlemen have not the slightest intention of visiting him with their displeasure in consequence of his having given this evidence.

‡ This statement appeared on inquiry to be somewhat exaggerated.

82. During the long time that I have worked with Messrs. Ainsworth the hours have varied greatly, in proportion to work. When I first went there I used often to work from 7 or 8 in the mornings till 12, 1, and 2 at night. That was when we were busy, and it used to last some times for five or six months together. It went on in this way for a great length of time. From 10 to 12 years ago they began to improve the machinery, and great improvements have been made in it; but they have worked fully as long hours since that as they used before. The Messrs. Ainsworth are considered to have the most extensive concerns in the trade, and always were so since I can remember. They employ about 400 hands in the bleaching and finishing departments, besides mechanics, labourers, &c. They used always to employ about the same number, as near as I can think; but they now do a great deal more work in the same number of hours through the improvements in machinery. Taking the year through, we worked from 15 to 18 hours on an average; there was seldom any slack time; we used to call ourselves slack when we gave over at 8 or 4 o'clock, beginning from 6 to 7; but it was mostly from 11 till 2 o'clock in the morning before we left off. In busy times it was often 12 and 1, and from that till 2 before we left off. In the last year I was with them, from April 1833 to April 1834, we were busy, as well as I can remember, through the spring and through the summer, for six or eight months of the year; that is, we went to work from 6 to half-past, sometimes at 4, and left off from 10 to 12, 1, or 2 in the morning, and sometimes after that time. Then we might have a slack time, when we should make seven or eight hours per day; that might last six or eight weeks; we never were slack very long. All the people in the works averaged these numbers of hours, some even more, such as some in the finishing department.

83. Out of the above 400 people in Messrs. Ainsworth's employ there are about 80 females and about 30 boys, all of whom have to work equally with the men. The females are from 12 to 26 and 27; the boys are from about 12 to 20. I have pitied them many a score of times. I have seen them many a time lay them down on tables and sleep instead of taking something to eat. They look tired, very much so; and during the busy time they often say they wish they had done, and got some sleep. I have had often, almost every day, to take a board and beat it upon the table to waken them, as they were slumbering at their work. At that time they would be hooking cloth; and while they should be doing it, I see them nodding, and trying to catch the hook. I have two sons and two daughters. One of them was obliged to be taken away from the work because it affected her so that she could not stand at her work; it produced swelling in the legs. Previously to taking her away I had her at home sick about 13 weeks. I know that many parents would not let their children work at bleach-works, if they could get anything else for them to do, on account of the length of time they work. Many a hundred times I have wished for a law to shorten the hours, and put the bleach-works under the same regulations as the factories; and it is my firm opinion it would be better both for men and masters. It would be better for the master in this respect, because his machinery would be always running for the whole of his hands. Now it may be sometimes running for only a fourth of the hands; for in a slack time some work comes in, and then it goes through the bleachers, and the machinery runs for them only; after that, when they have done and are idle, the machinery has to go on for the finishers. In large works, such as Mr. Ainsworth's and others, if this Bill were to pass, halting the hours to 10, they would get through the same quantity of work in the year that they do now, because at present some of their hands are generally slackers than the others, and might assist those that are busy, which would come the whole to be got through in proper time.

84. At times, if a sudden order has come, we have not been in bed more than 16 or 18 hours in the week. Such large shipping orders could not be got through if the hours were restricted, in the same time, without either employing more hands, or leaving off some work for their regular customers in the home market. More hands could not be employed without their adding to their machinery.

85. With regard to the shipping orders, what one bleacher could not do, if a sudden order came, another could. There are bleach-works in England quite enough to bleach all the goods that could be wanted if the hours were brought down to 10, and the system properly regulated among them. The master bleachers meet every week or every month, at Manchester; and it will be very simple for one master to say to another, "I have got an order for more than I can do; will you take one lot of it?" Another time this same master who took a part of the order would in return make the same kind of offer, when he had more than he could do.*

86. This "shipping order question" was made one of the great difficulties and objections when the Factory Act was proposed. It used to be said that it would not be possible to execute the shipping orders in time. The difficulty has been met very well, because the work has been more regular; there is less slack time. The qualities of bleaching and finishing are well known beforehand for the different foreign markets, and any one kind of order could be executed at once.

87. Many bleach-works, that work the longest hours, have little or nothing to do with shipping orders.

88. All the workmen are certain of this, that the quality of the article would be improved

* This is a misapprehension.

by not being "pushed" through the different processes; and this, we think, would be to the advantage of the trade generally; the cloth would be better, and would look better, and that would be very likely to increase the trade.

88. I can read and write, and so can all my children; there is no better place in the trade for education than Mr. Ainsworth's. No boy or girl is admitted to the works, unless they can read the Testament, and repeat the Church Catechism. One school, called the Jubilee School, was built in the Jubilee year 1809; the other was built in 1847. Mr. J. H. Ainsworth, the present proprietor of the works, built a church about 14 years since, and another in 1847; both are very handsome and complete churches, and were also endowed by Mr. Ainsworth. Several of the other master bleachers in Bolton and its neighbourhood have assisted in building schools and churches. There are night-schools at Mr. Ainsworth's, but the young people cannot go there in any number on account of the late hours.

89. Dr. GARSTANG.—I have been in medical practice at Bolton 13 years, and from time to time I have been in the habit of attending some of the families of the persons working in the bleach-works. I signed the petition to Parliament, of the operative bleachers, a few months ago: and my decided opinion is, that working such long hours as they generally do, is exceedingly prejudicial to them, both in a physical and moral point of view. I am acquainted with two young men, whose family I attend, who have been working, for the last six or eight months continuously, 16 hours a day. One of them looks very emaciated, the other is somewhat stronger.

91. Generally speaking, the bleachers are a healthy class, and are subject to no particular form of disease; but I am quite of the opinion that none but those of strong constitutional powers could sustain such long hours without injury to health.

92. With regard to accidents, I am one of the honorary surgeons to the Infirmary here, and I think that comparatively few cases of accidents are sent in from the bleach-works.

93. I am aware that there is a reluctance on the part of many men employed at the bleach-works of this neighbourhood, to come forward and give evidence upon this inquiry. From the opportunities I have of knowing their feelings and opinions, in the course of my professional occupation in their families, I am aware that they entertain an idea that, if they were to do so, they would be liable to dismissal. And I can state, that a very general wish prevails among them, that legislation should take place with regard to the long hours of labour.

94. Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON, surgeon, Bolton.—I have been in practice in Bolton upwards of 30 years, and have had frequent opportunities of being acquainted with the workers in the bleach-works, and their families. I signed the petition to Parliament in favour of this bill. I am decidedly of opinion that a limitation of the hours of labour is very much to be desired for the families and boys employed in them, inasmuch as many injurious consequences, both physical and moral, arise to both, from their long hours of work. I think, also, that it would be both satisfactory and beneficial to the men, as the legislation for the factories has been. I do not conceive that it would be injurious to the masters.

95. I have been Medical Inspector of Factories upwards of seven years, and can bear my testimony to the good effects that have been produced to the population from that act.

96. The employment at bleach-works is not in itself an employment obnoxious to health, but the effect of the long hours in the bleach-works is, that it has a tendency to develop any latent or hereditary cause of disease. The adults are generally a healthy class of men, but it is obvious that none but persons of strong constitutions can long stand those hours. Since the introduction of machinery in the bleaching process, which has been going on for some years, the bleachers are no longer so clearly distinguished from the other classes as they used to be in point of strength and vigour. They are now more under cover.

97. My impression is, that the number of accidents in bleach-works is comparatively small.

98. WM. BARLOW, finisher in Mr. Edward Hollins's works, Tootle Bridge, near Bolton.—Our works have been averaging 15 hours a day for four months (Saturdays excepted, the hours of stopping on which day have been from 4 p.m. till 7 p.m.), beginning at 6 in the morning. Before that time, for several months, we were in a constantly fluctuating condition; working some days 10 hours for three or four days to a week together, and then from 15 to 17 for three or four days or a week. This state of things represents the general condition of the whole trade; so that we have, in point of fact, been working from 15 to 17 hours a day for eight months in the year, counting all the days of such over-work. The hours of rest for meals are two in the day.

99. One of the great drawbacks attending the irregularity and long hours in our works is that we cannot reckon on our time, and make any appointment for any purpose, such as attending our Mechanics' Institute and lectures, or any other mode of improvement.

100. "To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, the humble Petition of the undersigned Clergymen, and members of the Medical Profession of the Borough of Bolton, in the County of Lancaster,
"Sheweth,

101. "That your Petitioners have long known with regret, that it is customary, in the several Bleaching, Finishing, and Dyeing Establishments in the United Kingdom, for

females and young persons to labour for 14, 16, 18, and 20 hours a day, and frequently for days and nights consecutively, without intermission, except for meals.

102. "That such a system is attended by most injurious consequences to those unhappily subjected to it, as, in addition to the unwholesome atmosphere pervading such establishments, they are virtually prohibited from being brought within the circle of those influences which give a healthy tone to the intellectual nature of man.

103. "That your Petitioners understand that a Bill is intended to be brought before your Honourable House, to restrict the labour of females and young persons employed in Bleaching, Finishing, and Dyeing Establishments, to 10 hours per day.

104. "That your Petitioners are justified by their own experience in declaring that such a measure would be a wise and beneficial one, and has long been highly necessary.

105. "Your Petitioners, therefore, pray that, when such Bill comes before your Honourable House, you will be pleased to pass it into a law.

"And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

106. Names of Ministers of the Gospel, and gentlemen of the Medical Profession, who signed the Petition to Parliament, and the Memorial to Viscount Palmerston:—

Rev. H. Jones, St. George's-place.
 Rev. Mr. Chamberland, Fald's-road.
 Rev. F. Baker, Unitarian minister.
 Rev. Mr. Pagan, B.A., Darcy-lever.
 Rev. Mr. Carter, priest, Bolton more.
 Rev. Mr. Smith, priest, Little Bolton.
 Rev. H. Fraser, Askey-bridge.
 Rev. Mr. Richardson, Church-bank.
 Rev. Mr. Smith, St. George's-road.
 Rev. New, Jones, incumbent, St. George's.
 Rev. Mr. Davidson, Charley-road.
 Rev. R. Best, Charley-road.
 Rev. Lewis Porter, Breightwaite.
 Rev. Mr. Kelk.
 Rev. A. P. Kemp.
 Rev. Mr. Hartley.
 Rev. Mr. Trench.
 Rev. Mr. Osburn.
 Rev. Mr. Tarnick.
 Rev. Mr. Taylor.
 Rev. Mr. Turton.
 Rev. A. S. Pemberton.

Dr. Cawthorn, M.D., Fald's-road.
 Dr. Black, R.N., Tongwith Haugh.
 Dr. Goodwin, Halliwell.
 Dr. Dorrain, Blackburn-street.
 Dr. Gustang, Bark-street.
 Dr. Whostenholme, Bridge-street.
 Dr. Bothwell, Bank-house.
 Dr. Robinson, surgeon, Bank house.
 Dr. Chadwick, Bridgman-street.
 Dr. John Livy, St. George's-place.
 Dr. Haddock, Wood-street.
 Dr. Hutton, Bradshaw-gate.
 Dr. Foulisbury, Bridge-street.
 Dr. Carruthers, Church Bank.

107. See also the names of the Clergy and members of the Medical Profession of Manchester and Salford, who signed a similar Petition to Parliament, which has been recently forwarded for presentation. Appendix B.

108. Mr. WILLIAM JONES, Sub-inspector of Factories.—I have held my present office nine years, and have resided in Bolton during the whole of that time. In the course of my duties, I have had occasion to see a great deal of the persons working in the bleaching-works. I have no doubt that the length of time they often work continuously at that branch of labour, is very injurious to them both physically and morally. Instances of both have frequently come to my knowledge.

109. I inspect the print-works. A considerable number of print-works have bleaching-works attached to them, often within the same or adjoining premises. I therefore frequently see those who work at the latter. Indeed, the proximity of the bleaching-works to the print-works enables a master of print-works, if so disposed, to evade, to a great extent, the inspector; as it enables him to remove suddenly the children and young persons from the print-works to the bleaching-works, when the inspector is known to be in the way. My impression is, that the machinery of the bleaching-works, although not so dangerous as that of the factories, is probably sufficiently so to justify a law requiring all the dangerous portions of it to be fenced. When accidents do occur from the machinery of the bleaching-works, they are sometimes very serious, as the machinery is large. Persons, when caught, are apt to be drawn into it, and loss of life is the consequence. Accidents of a minor nature also occur; though neither the one nor the other are likely to be as numerous as they were in factories before the machinery was fenced off.

110. There can be no doubt as to the improvement of the factory population that has taken place in consequence of the hours of labour being reduced. It is now, I believe, almost universally admitted.

111. Mr. JOHN H. ARNSWORTHY.—I am proprietor of the Halliwell bleach-works near Bolton. I have been engaged in the business of bleaching, &c. for 33 years; and for the last 26 years have been Chairman of the Bleachers' Association for this neighbourhood, and that of Manchester, which form the principal locality of the bleaching trade, not only of Lancashire but of England.

112. I am ready to admit that the hours of work have, at times, been too long for females and boys; but if we must have a short-time Bill, it is absolutely necessary for us,

considering the nature of our business, that we should have very great latitude with regard to the hours within which we may be allowed to employ them. My opinion is that that latitude ought to extend from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The reason for this is that the work fluctuates, and, owing to the great division of the labour, and the numerous sets, one set has often to wait until the work has passed through the hands of the preceding set.

113. For instance, suppose a quantity of cloth, from Manchester, to be unloaded at 6 o'clock in the morning, it will take some time to assort it; the workers cannot begin till that is done, and the dressers cannot begin until the cloth has been marked.

114. Again, the manglers cannot begin in the morning until the cloth has been sent up by the bleachers, and that may be as late as 7 or 8 o'clock.

115. The manglers cannot get the cloth ready for the dampers till probably 9 or 10 o'clock.

116. These instances will frequently occur.

117. The females, in the making-up department of my works, now work generally from seven to ten when busy, and are extremely healthy, as is evidenced by the sick society. They stop half-an-hour at breakfast, an hour at dinner, and half-an-hour for tea.

118. Supposing a Bill to pass, limiting the working hours for women and children to 10½ a day, I am strongly of opinion, that it would be highly inconvenient to our proceedings to specify the hours to be between 6 and 6, including meal-times; because, as I have explained above, the work might be ready in one department and not in another, so that it would frequently amount to a greater limitation of hours in some departments. Our work is unlike that of the factories, which admits of every set beginning and ending at the same moment all the year, and every day in the week. If such a limitation as 12 hours a-day is to be forced upon us by Act of Parliament, we should be allowed some discretion as to the mode of reckoning those hours; for instance, if we found it necessary to employ a woman or child from 9 till 3, or from 10 till 10, such employment should be allowed. But this would necessarily nullify one of the objects of the operatives who wish for a short-time Bill, namely, that relating to the late hours at which females return to their homes.

119. Supposing the Bill proposed last session to become law, the probability is, that we should dispense, as much as possible, with the labour of women, chiefly in the making-up department, where they are now much used; and for boys under 18 the tendency would be the same. The women who would remain, instead of earning about 12s., would find their earnings considerably reduced; somewhat in the ratio of the reduction of the number of hours.

120. It is said by the advocates of the Bill that the fluctuations in the supply of work to the bleachers could be prevented by the merchants of Manchester sending their goods out more regularly. This is erroneous. The houses in Manchester who send us their goods to bleach, &c., are, for the most part, commission agents, who are limited to executing the orders they receive from their correspondents, or from their other customers. They have no control over the quantity or the mode of finishing, and frequently a very limited control over the time they can allow us.

121. One of the witnesses states, that the masters are in the habit, when men leave their service, of giving them what is called a "quittance paper," marked in a particular way, and that in such cases a man will not be able to get employment elsewhere. In answer to this, I may say that I never employed a secret mark, or recollect having seen one, nor have I known that such existed among the members of the association.

122. However objectionable the long hours may be thought for the women and children, experience proves the bleach-works are preferred to factories, both by parents and children. I believe the reasons are, that they can earn more money in the bleach-works, and that the employment is more healthy; the temperature in factories being about 80 degrees, whereas in the bleach-works a very small number of those employed, namely, the dampers and stovers, are required to work in a high temperature.

123. The workmen are in error in saying, that if in consequence of the operation of a short-time Act, one master could not get through all the work sent to him, he might send some of it to another. This might be the case with the bleaching alone, but it is incorrect with regard to the finishing. There are various finishes, for which different masters are well known in the trade, and for which there is a special demand. One master, in many cases, cannot execute the finish of another; neither would the merchant be content that his goods should be transferred from one bleacher to another.

124. It has been asserted in the evidence of the men that cloth rapidly bleached is apt to be spoiled. This will only be the case where the workmen are careless, or from some bad management. But, even if this were so, it would be no argument for a short-time Bill, because the bleaching would be done by adult male labour, if necessary; and under any circumstances the same amount of bleaching would be got through, when required, in the same time as at present. The same amount of finishing would also be got through, but it would be by adult males; and therefore inconvenient and more expensive.

125. If we were to be driven to the employment of adult males alone, another inconvenience and injury to the trade would arise from the difficulty of training up skilled work-

men. The trade of a bleacher is very arduous and troublesome, as the operations are various, and require great attention and judgment; which can only be acquired from long practice and experience, beginning at an early age.

126. There is a great distinction between our case and that of the factories. In the latter, the work depends very much upon machinery, and each set of workmen has the same thing to do over and over again with great exactness and regularity. Ours is a trade where manual labour is predominant, and where a great deal must necessarily depend upon the individual skill and good behaviour of the workmen; and consequently more attention is required on the part of the manager to keep the men properly at their work. Well trained and skilled labour is a matter of the first importance to us.

127. Supposing such a latitude as I have above adverted to, be allowed to us, namely, from 6 to 10½; but with the restriction of not being able to employ females or boys more than 10½ working hours a day, or between 6 and 6; we should be driven to a system of relays in the principal departments of our work, if we did not adopt the other alternative, which I have already mentioned, of dispensing with the labour of females and boys nearly altogether.

128. There is a portion of our work called the clamping (or drying the cloth stretched on laths), in which a high temperature is required. In this work we employ no females or boys, but only men. When we are busy these men work in relays. The first set works from 6 to 10. The other from 2 p.m. to 6 a.m.; and thus are enabled to prepare work for the makers-up, who come in the morning. This shows the manner in which work is prepared, to enable the female workers to begin work at 7 in the morning. These are the only persons employed in our works by relays.

129. Those men who work in this manner earn two days' wages or more in the time specified. Although the hours are long, they have frequent intervals of rest, while the cloth is drying, and can sit or lie down as they please; they frequently read books from the libraries attached to two out of the three schools in the neighbourhood, and also the newspapers. During these intervals of rest. These intervals occur also occasionally in nearly all the other departments, and are often so employed.

130. In all our departments the sets make, when busy, two days' wages in one; at other times a day's and a half, and seldom less than a day's.

131. Our people are able to make one day's wages in eight hours of steady work, some of them in less.

132. All the persons employed here have the means of ascertaining exactly at the end of the month whether they have been paid for the exact number of pieces done; an arrangement which appears to give great satisfaction.

133. Mr. SPANING, Manager for Mr. J. H. Ainsworth's Halliwell Bleach-Works.—Our orders come to us from the merchants at Manchester. It often happens that a merchant receives orders from abroad, to ship by such a vessel or omit altogether. We have had several cases of this kind in the last few weeks, on account of the state of the American markets. This happens in all states of the market.

134. I am quite of opinion, that, if a short-time Bill were to pass, those females whom we might retain would find their wages reduced in the ratio of the reduction of the number of hours; and many would be dismissed altogether.

135. As regards the quitnotice paper spoken of by the men, I never heard of any such practice.

136. I have no doubt that, as a rule, bleach-works are preferred by the work-people to other occupations; and that should it be requisite at any time, we should have no difficulty in increasing our hands. This remark applies to our present condition; but if we were limited by a short-time Act to 13 hours (i.e. 10½ working hours) per day, and were consequently obliged to employ a greater number of hands, at times when we have a great deal of work to do, we should not be able to keep these hands employed when work was slack; we should be obliged to dismiss them.

137. For the last three months, in one part of our works called Prospect, we have been busy, and the people have begun at 7 and left off at 3, 10, or 11, as they thought proper.

138. The girls in the exander place (three), in the casbrie making-up room (10), and the jaconet making-up room (eight), work the same or nearly the same number of hours as above.

139. The boys in the machine bleaching place (six) do not average 10½ hours the year round. They do not work nine hours a day. Those in the mangling place (four), and the jaconet room (two), work the same hours as the females.

140. July, August, and September are quiet months with us; and generally speaking, October, November, and December, if the trade is good, are busy months; January, February, and March, are also busy months, when trade is in a good state. It begins to fall off in April, May, and June; in each of those months we begin to do a little less. We are sometimes very quiet in July, August, and September. This applies to our muslin and dyeing departments. In the other portions of our works, strong goods and shirtings are bleached and finished. They are not in my department.

141. If a Bill were to pass restricting the hours of labour for boys and females, I should at once recommend that those boys and girls in the departments that would be interfered with should be discharged, and their places supplied by adult males. Those whom I

should recommend to be dispensed with would be, eight females in the calender place, 10 in the canalic making-up room, and eight in the jaconet making-up room, 13 in the working-up room of another work, in all 34; leaving 83 whom we could keep on.

142. We should also probably dismiss six boys; two from the jaconet making-up room, and four from the mangle place; leaving 28 whom we should be able to get on with, though their hours were reduced.

143. I have known these works 38 years, and have been manager of them about 20 years. During that time I am not aware that any injury has occurred to the health of any of the females or boys employed, in consequence of the occasional long working hours. We have no females employed in the pulling-up and doubling, except occasionally in the booking of the calicoes and shirtings. We employ lads for that.

144. Mr. MORRIS, manager of Mr. Ainsworth's bleaching-works of Mill and Temple, Halliwell.—I am the manager of Mr. Ainsworth's Mill and Temple works, employing about 100 hands altogether. It is bleaching and finishing strong goods at the Mill, and shirtings at the Temple. Supposing an Act to pass limiting the hours of labour for females and boys, it would be inconvenient to us in some departments. In the finishing place at the Mill we should either dismiss the three females and substitute adult males, or get another hand to assist them. In the packing-room we should have to employ another female hand in addition to the one now there.

145. In order to keep on the three hands in the dressing-place, we should have to employ two extra hands in the stitching. With respect to the boy employed there, if he gave over at 6, we should be obliged to send him off and employ an adult.

146. In the bleaching-places we should dismiss the four boys, and get four of 18 and upwards in their place.

147. In the mangle-place we should have to get an extra hand in addition to the two women, and we should dispense with the three boys and get men.

148. In the stove we should have to get men instead of the three boys there.

149. In the packing-room we should dismiss the two females and three boys, and substitute men.

150. Out of 10 females in the works that I manage, we should probably dismiss six; and as to the 13 boys, we should probably dismiss the whole of them.

151. If adult males were to be substituted for females and boys, the additional cost would be something considerable. I do not see at present that this could be met by improvements in our methods, or by increasing the speed of our machinery. An improvement has been introduced into the mode of wringing, which has become pretty general.

152. Mr. Ainsworth's works are principally engaged in working for the foreign market.

153. I have been employed at these works 37 years. During that time I am not aware of having known any instance in any department of either females or boys having been injured in their health by the occasional long hours of work.

154. If an Act were to pass restricting the hours, but allowing us a latitude, as, for instance, between 6 and 10, coupled with a restriction of not making more than 80 working hours in the week (i.e. 14 working for five days, and 10 on Saturday), I think that our females and boys could work those hours without the least injury to their health. My reason for thinking so is this: For four or five months in the year, in consequence of the fluctuations of trade, they would not be working more than six or eight hours a day; and even if they were on the premises from 6 to 10, they would not be working continuously during that time. Besides their two hours for meals, they would be stopping from time to time waiting for work to come to them from other sets. This applies to all the females and boys employed.

155. I am of opinion that a restriction of the hours of labour for females and boys would occasion us so much difficulty, that we should get rid of them as much as possible.

156. [I then took the following evidence of persons whom I found at work in different rooms in Mr. Ainsworth's works. I read it over to Mr. Ainsworth on the spot. I passed this course with all the evidence I took at all the works I visited; reading it over to the principal person present, either the owner of the works, or the manager, or the foreman of the department if the former did not happen to be present.]

157. ELLEN SMITH (booker).—I am 18 years of age. I have been working here going on five years. I have generally made a day and a half's work; that is, beginning at 7 and giving over at 11. I have been quite this way two or three months together; I am always very tired at the end of the day, my feet ache and the skin comes off. My feet have been so sore in the evening, that I could scarcely walk when I came in the morning. I generally wash them, and put soap on them to make them better. I would rather work a day than a day and a half, if the law was to be passed; I should prefer it, though I only get a day's wage. My father works in the stove.

158. MARY SMITH (booker).—I am sister to Ellen Smith; I am going on 16. I have been at work here going on three years. I have generally worked from 7 to 11; we never stop long, except at meal times; we have half an hour at breakfast, an hour at dinner, and half an hour at tea. I go home to all my meals; I live close by. Sometimes I am very tired at the end of the day. Sometimes my feet ache; it sometimes

keeps me awake at night the skin is never off; I have never been sick since I came to work; it would be better for us if we only got a day's wage instead of a day and a half.

159. MARY ASHCROFT (hooker).—I am going on 16. I have worked here going for three years. I have worked generally at hooking from 7 till 11. Sometimes I am very tired, when we have worked very hard; the skin was off all my toes last week; it has been so many times before. My feet ache at night, and I always fall asleep, because I am so tired. When I wake in the morning my feet smart so I can hardly abide sometimes; I wash them and put soap on them. My father is the watchman at Prospect. I should like very well for a law to be passed saying that the girls should not work more than 10½ hours a day; I would rather lose the half day's wage.

160. MARY PENDLEBURY.—I am head maker-up in this room. I have eight girls under me; I was 14 years old when I came to this work, hooking and making up, and I am now 25 next April. I have been head maker-up about three years. When I first began hooking my feet used to be sore, when we were very busy and kept long hours. We used often to be very busy; for the first two or three years my feet used to be very sore, and the skin used to come off. I was at the hooking till I was 19 years old. We used then to "make up" from 7 till 12 or half-past 11; the hours are now generally from 7 till 10 and 11. I generally make a day and a half's wage per day the week through, sometimes double, that is 48 days in the month. I have been off from sickness, in consequence of those long hours, two or three times. I was off a fortnight and a week. The girls' feet when they are had are hot. If a girl was to work as hard as she could for 10½ hours, I do not think she would get foot-sore, because she would have a good night's rest. If the Parliament was to pass a law for the girls to begin at 6 and give over at 6, I should like it, though I should only earn a day's wage instead of a day and a half or two days. I feel tired now when I go home from my work, bending my back all day over my work, folding up the pieces. All the girls say they would like to give over at 6 and start at 6. All the girls here are healthy now, and have been for a long time.

161. MARIA ASHWORTH.—I was 15 the 16th of October. I have been working at hooking two years and six months. I was before stitching tucks. Since I have been agate with the hooking, the hours I have made have been sometimes from 7 till 11, sometimes from 7 till 10; 7 to 10 have been oftenest, not much. When 10 or 11 o'clock comes I feel very tired; my feet are quite well at present, but they have been very bad. They have been had 60 or 70 days at different times during those two years and a half. Sometimes the skin was off, sometimes they were had from pain. They feel better in the morning. When the skin was off I scraped them a little. My father is a millwright in Mr. Ashworth's employment. I should like very well a law to be passed to prevent the girls working more than 10½ hours a day. If I only made one day's wage instead of a day and a half, I should not mind. Out of the 60 or 70 days I was off work, I was off a month from scarlet fever. Another time I was off three days from a gathering in my foot, from the heel being rubbed. The skin has been off my feet not so very often. I have come to my work four or five times when the skin has been off my feet. I believe the skin was off my feet, not because my clogs did not fit me, but because of the long time I was working and standing about.

162. JANE SWAGLER.—I am in my 20th year. I am a hooker; I have been at this work three or four years; the hours have been generally from 7 till 10, and sometimes 11, resting two hours for meals. I have no rest except at those times; we sometimes take a little longer than the regular times for meals. I have never been sick from the work; I have had bad feet, and I have to wear shoes for it; my feet were hot, and the skin came off. They used to ache; they have not ached or been sore since I began to wear shoes instead of clogs. Nearly all the girls wear clogs. I feel tired after those hours; when I work later I feel more tired; my feet sometimes ache in the morning when I put them down, but they soon give over when I begin to walk. I think if all the girls wore shoes their feet would not ache; I can speak for myself. I should like to have the ten hours Bill, though I should only be able to earn a day's wage instead of a day and a half or two. I think the girls all say so. I worked four or five years at a cotton mill; my feet used to be sore at the cotton-mill. I like working at bleach works better than the factory, even with their long hours, because it is cleaner work and not so much noise.

163. MARY ANN ASHWORTH.—I have been a maker-up 25 years. There have been generally 10 girls here; I think they have been generally healthy; all are very well at present. Our hours have been generally from 7 to 9 or 10 or 11, and sometimes 12. The young ones between 13 and 14 or 15 suffer from their feet and their legs aching; when they get over it, and become healthy and strong.

164. HANNAH SMITH.—I am 19; I have been working here 5 or 6 years. The hours have been generally from 6 to half-past 9 or 10. My employment is packing cloth; I am generally upon my legs a good deal. I have only been off work one day since I came; I have never had bad feet, but they have ached when we have had to work hard; they burn and ache

so as to keep me awake; sometimes they have felt numb in the morning. I should like very well for a law to be passed to prevent the girls working more than 10½ hours a day, and would rather have it though I should only earn a day's wage instead of a day and a half. Many a time I have heard the girls wish for this.

165. [ANN CROSS agreed in the above, and gave similar evidence].

166. FANNY SLATER.—I am nearly 15. I have worked here three years; before that I worked in the mill. I have never been off work here or had any pains in my feet. The hours have been from 6 to ½ past 9 and 10 o'clock. I would rather work the same hours as in the mill, though I only earned a day's wage instead of a day and a-half; I prefer this work to the mill, it is pleasanter work.

167. ISABELLA MATOIL.—I am going on 16. I have been at work here five years last September. I pull up cambric pieces; I begin at 7 and stop mostly between 9 and 10,—it is oftener 10 o'clock. I have been off work twice with bad eyes, once three weeks; never before above a day or half a day; my feet ache sometimes, but they are not very sore. My father is a stover. I cannot sit down and rest during the hours of work. I am on my legs all the time while the work is going on; and sometimes we are a day without sitting down, except at meal times. I feel very tired at the end of the day. I have to go home a mile and a half. I should like the short hours very well if it was to be the law. My eyes were made sore from being each long hours close to the gas.

168. A. B.*—I have been head maker-up about 20 years. For my part I do not wish the hours to be shortened; some of the girls do, they would like it. I am very strong, and in very good health.

169. Females and boys employed at Messrs. Ainsworth, Son, and Co., Bleach-Works, Halliwell, Bolton:—

		Women and Girls.	Boys under 18 years.
	Dressing Place	-	15
	Cloth House, Markers	16	
	Room in the west end of Albert Stove	2	
	Making-up Fastens room at the south end of Clamp-places	13	
Capitol,	Making-up room	-	2
Ditto	Roll Packing-room	2	4
Ditto	Mangle place	-	
Brow,	Dressing place, Grey rooms	8	3
Prospect,	Machine bleaching place	-	6
Ditto	Mangle place	5	4
Ditto	Calender place	3	
Ditto	Cambric Making-up room	10	
Ditto	Jaconet Making-up room	8	2
Ditto	Beetling place	-	1
Mill,	Finishing place	2	1
Ditto	Packing-room	1	
Temple,	Dressing place	3	1
Ditto	Bleaching place	-	4
Ditto	Mangle place	2	3
Ditto	Stove	-	3
Ditto	Packing-room	2	3
	Boys under 18 years of age	-	52
	Women and girls	77	77
	Total	-	129

170. No women working in hot places.

171. The three boys in the stove in the Temple are only in for short periods together, while the cloth is being hung.

* I omitted at the moment to put down this name.

NUMBER of HANDS employed by each Bleacher in the Neighbourhoods of BOSTON, BURY, and MANCHESTER, 8th July 1854.*

	Boys under 10 years of age.	Girls under 10 years of age.	Boys under 15 years of age.	Total Number of Females.	Total Number.	Remarks.
† E. Alnsworth, Son, and Co. . . .	-	-	32	77	308	
Thomas Ridgway and Co. . . .	-	2	110	37	461	
† J. and H. Bleszley	-	-	30	37	198	
Richard Sykes and Co. . . .	-	-	24	26	204	
J. Marsden and Co. . . .	1	-	16	9	73	
Thomas G. Horridge	-	-	16	26	121	
† Jonathan Peadlebury and Son . . .	-	-	31	41	230	
Edward Hollins and Co. . . .	-	-	16	16	120	
John Smith, Junr, and Co. . . .	-	-	19	32	163	
Thomas Holmes	-	-	14	20	88	
Ridgway Bridson, Son, and Co., Bolton	-	-	23	33	234	
ditto ditto, Lever Bank . . .	-	-	25	46	154	
Blair and Sumner, Mill-hill, Bolton . .	-	-	41	44	126	
Thomas Appleton and Co. . . .	-	-	26	49	234	
† Thomas Cross and Co. . . .	-	-	35	41	173	
Chambers and Livsey	-	-	19	23	71	
Barlow, Warburton, and Co. . . .	-	-	30	24*	130	
† Thomas Hardcastle and Son, Fir Wood	-	-	40	33	440	
James Hardcastle and Co., Broad- shaw Hall	-	-	38	23	280	
George and James Slater	-	-	24	22	125	
Rule and Davies	-	-	17	23	100	
† Execs. of James Fletcher	-	-	-	-	264	Particulars not received.
William Makant	-	-	12	14	38	
† Roger Taylor	-	-	4	4*	50	
Eden and Thwaites	3	-	39	34	167	
John Slater and Co. . . .	5	-	29	16*	142	
Hugh Roberts and Co. . . .	-	2	11	9*	80	
Richard Bealey and Co., Radcliffe, Manchester, Bury-road	-	1	43	40	240	
Charles Whorrell	-	2	19	36	125	
† John Seddon	1	1	14	43	121	
Henry Marsland	1	-	-	-	110	Particulars not received.
Mortimer L. Tait	3	-	38	38	201	
William Longworth & Co., Spring- field	-	-	12	6*	90	Total number not received, but supposed.
Wm. Longworth and Co., Horwich . .	-	-	10	20	72	
Robert Heyworth and Co., suppose . .	-	-	-	-	90	No return.
Females and Boys not returned, suppose	14	8	876	1046	3380	
			70	184		
			946	1230		

* Under 18 years.

† Bleachers of fine or fancy goods.

172. Mr. JAMES HARDCASTLE, proprietor of the Fir Wood Bleach-Works, Bolton.—I have been engaged in the bleaching and finishing business nearly 40 years. When I first remember it, the hands used to work long hours much more frequently than they do now. I have known at that time, that they have worked for a week with very little intermission, getting a few hours' sleep occasionally as they could. Since the inquiry in 1845-4, the hours of working have been much diminished. I very much object to legislative interference in matters of this kind. I think that the gradual amelioration which has already taken place in the hours of work, in favour of the weak-people, will continue; and that the tendency of things will be, that the masters will of themselves do all they can to correct it. My own work-people do not appear to suffer from the long hours; they are (as a rule) very healthy and strong, and the men appear always ready to undertake work as it comes in, although it may occasionally oblige them to work very long hours. This practice of working long hours from time to time, is not a matter within our own control. We are dependent on the merchants and manufacturers, upon whose goods we operate, and whose

* This statement was furnished to me by Mr. Alnsworth. I presume it was only intended to be an approximate statement, as it is not complete; the unbleached being chiefly of works near Manchester, I was unable to obtain any complete list.

orders frequently tie us to a specified time of delivery. On an accumulation of such orders our people are then obliged to work 12, 14, or 16 hours a day, until such orders are executed. They will then probably have a period of shorter hours for some days, more or less, according to the state of business. While the men are at work, the females and boys must also to a great extent be so too. They may, in the different departments, have occasionally a little resting-time besides their hours of meals, while waiting until the cloth has gone through a previous process or operation. These operations vary, according to finish and fold, and the like. These remarks apply chiefly to finishing.

173. I do not desire any legislative interference which will have the effect of hampering our trade in any way. From my experience, both as a printer and bleacher, I consider the Calico Printers' Act as undesirable and inapplicable.* The bleaching, dyeing, and finishing trade is not in such a state as to permit it to be placed under any legislative restrictions, without endangering most materially the prosperity of the cotton manufacture generally. From some markets we are even now excluded by foreign competition; there is so small a margin left to us against that competition in some countries, especially in particular branches, that we fear the effect of any legislative measures which may tend to hamper us in the prosecution of our trade, or add materially to the expense of production. I see great difficulties and objections to the raising of our prices.

174. I cannot say that I like to see such young girls at work as the four we saw to-day in the finishing department, about and under 13 years of age. I have no personal interest in employing them, neither do I wish any girl under 13 to be in my works. This is in reference solely to my own works as at present carried on. They are generally the daughters or relatives of some of our men. On the whole, the females in our employ are, as you will have observed, strong and healthy looking. Two of those four whom you remarked as having a different appearance ought not to have been here; their parents ought to have put them to the branches of labour better suited to them. The females and boys are, as regards their earnings, in companies with the men, and receive their proportion of payment according to a scale which I established more than 20 years ago. My attention had not before been particularly directed to those four young girls of the age of 13 and under, or to those four who said to you they had been sometimes ill in consequence of the long hours of work. The number of females throughout the works is thirty-six; and with the exception of the six or eight before mentioned, they are in robust health.† With regard to those six or eight, I should very much wish to remedy such a state of things, if I could see how to do so without material risks to the trade generally. The question is surrounded with difficulties; we are not like the factory people, whose work can be reduced to regularity; the nature of our processes prevents this, as also the unavoidable irregularity of the demand for our labour by the manufacturers and merchants.

175. I have considered whether it would be possible for us to adopt a system of relays with our females, but do not see how to effect this, and have abandoned the idea as being altogether impracticable. The difficulty of a system of relays is inherent in the nature of the work, and which can only be comprehended by those who have been long engaged in its supervision. I might have raised the rate of earnings to the girls and young women without any cost to myself, but thought it undesirable to alter a regulation which we have been acting upon for so many years. The additional rate would have been paid out of the general earnings of the set.

176. If, in consequence of being restricted by Act of Parliament to the same hours as the factories, we should substitute adult labour for that of boys and females, we should lose the means of training up a succession of skilled labourers.

177. Although I object to legislation, I should be glad indeed to see that no children under 11 are employed at all in the trades of bleaching, dyeing, and finishing, and that no females under 18 should be employed otherwise than in the day, namely, between half-past 5 in the morning and half-past 8 at night, or should work more than 60 hours in any one week within those daily hours. The Legislature, in the Acts for Regulating Labour, has, I believe, established the hours from half-past 5 in the morning to half-past 8 at night as constituting day time‡

178. In the bleaching department the men divide themselves for work about as follows: The first lump or portion of work is entered upon at 5 o'clock, and at the fastest rate of labour their work is ended at about 2. The second will end at about 8 or 9. The night lump or portion will end about 4 in the morning. In periods of "push" they will all be employed in that manner. In slack periods we have no need of the whole of them, therefore a few may stay away, and seek a day's work, with a farmer, for instance. There is some arrangement among themselves with regard to this. In the bleaching, therefore, it may be said that we have a sort of elastic power at our command. This, as far as I am

* The hours permitted by the Calico Printers' Works Act (from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) had been suggested by Mr. Ainsworth (p. 14.) as desirable for the bleach-works, if any legislation were thought necessary.

† That expression seemed to me rather too positive. They had the appearance of being so, with the few exceptions adverted to.

‡ This paragraph was copied, at the time it was written, by Mr. Hardcastle's direction, and addressed by him in my presence to Mr. Ainsworth, soliciting his opinion upon it. I believe Mr. Ainsworth did not approve of it.

aware, is not a general system in the trade, but one which I am able to avail myself of having the use of water power, which the men can set on and off themselves.

179. My opinion is, that this system is not applicable to the females and boys employed in the finishing department. I arrive at this conclusion from my experience of nearly 40 years in the trade.

180. All the finishers in the making-up room work together in one company, and divide the amount earned in the proportion of their rated wages.

181. If all the females in the works were adult women, it would cost me no more than at present.

182. I have no interest in employing young children, except that they may be in a course of training for the trade.

183. The elder would do the work better.

184. By way of showing the danger of hampering our business, I may mention that goods go from Manchester to Ireland to be dyed and finished; some go to Cork and thence to London; some to Belfast and back again to Manchester. This is a very increasing trade. The reason is, that water-power is abundant and cheap, and labour cheaper than here. The great bulk of this trade consists of cottons finished to imitate linen, both for the home and foreign markets.

185. The following is the analysis of the different descriptions of work-people employed in our works at Fir Wood:—

	Men.	Boys.	Females.
Unloaders	3	2	—
Banders	1	3	—
Dressers	4	8	—
Bleachers	46	2	—
Squeezers	1	2	—
Manglers	16	8	5
Stovers	14	9	—
Calico packers	7	3	5
Calenderers	11	—	3
Finishers and makers-up	10	7	13
Order office	6	—	—
Shirting packers	8	—	3
Beetlers	5	—	—
Chest manglers	3	—	—
Canroyers (damping cloth)	4	1	—
Dyers	71	3	—
Stitchers for ditto	—	—	4
Sweepers up	—	—	2
	170	61	37

186. Mr. REDOWAT BAINBRIDGE, proprietor of Bleach-Works, Bolton.—The following account of the hours worked by a girl in our employ, Mary Partington, aged 14, taken from our books, will illustrate the irregularity of the employment, and the number of hours sometimes worked. The period is from December 4, 1854, to the end of the month.

187. This was a good month, representing a fair average of the last six:—

Dec. 4	Nett hours of work.	Dec. 11	Nett hours of work.	Dec. 18	Nett hours of work.	Dec. 26	Nett hours of work.
" 5	7½	" 12	11	" 19	13	" 27	13½
" 6	10	" 13	13	" 20	14	" 28	12½
" 7	9	" 14	11	" 21	12	" 29	18½
" 8	10	" 15	12½	" 22	14½	" 30	9
" 9	17	" 16	11	" 23	11		
	6)56½		6)69½		6)76		5)66
Average	9½	Average	11½	Average	12½	Average	13½

188. On the Fridays the makers-up are obliged to make longer hours, in consequence of the Saturday being a half holiday in Manchester, on which days we can only deliver early in the morning one box; the merchant will only receive on that day one box. The merchant refuses to receive any delivery after 1 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The box delivered on the Saturday morning contains a day's work. We, therefore, deliver on

Saturday before 1 o'clock the same quantity that we deliver on any other day. On the other days in the week there are two or three deliveries, the total amounting simply to the one day's work.

189. The Monday morning's box is generally smaller than usual, because it is the result of the work of a fewer number of hours on the Saturday, the people working less after their long hours on the Friday.

190. In the week ending the 9th the same girl worked on an average only $9\frac{1}{2}$; but on the 8th (Friday) she worked 17 hours. We could not have distributed her work evenly over the whole week, because the probability is we had not the work to give her; the cloth had not been sent to us. The merchants now often send us cloth, giving us only two or three days to execute the order. We have just received some cloth to bleach on this day (Wednesday) which is to be returned to Manchester on Friday. If this had been a large order instead of a moderate one, our hands would have been obliged to work extra hours in order to execute it.

191. It sometimes happens that several orders come in on one day, all requiring to be executed by the same day, probably for some ship that is going to sail at a certain date. Our customers, therefore, all want their cloth ready by that day.

192. It appears by our books, that in December last we were doing work which represents a fair average of the year. In one week of December, our hands worked $12\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day. It may be assumed that this represents a week when we were full of orders, and that our hands ought not to do much more.

193. We worked those hours because the merchants, in Manchester, gave us no more time to execute their orders.

194. If this Bill were to pass, limiting us to $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day, it may be assumed that the Manchester merchants will not alter their mode of doing business, but will still put off, to the last moment, sending us their shipping orders. It may not rest with them, but may depend upon their foreign orders.

195. If this Bill were to pass, and we were to receive precisely similar orders to be executed within the same time, we should have to do in $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours what now takes us $12\frac{1}{2}$.

196. The question is, how is that to be effected?

197. The business of the trade consists of two main branches, the bleaching and the finishing, the latter including stiffening, drying, making-up, &c.

198. The bleaching and finishing of this county has reference chiefly to the grey cloth as it comes, in pieces of from 20 to 50 yards, from the merchant or manufacturer, some not weighing more than an ounce to the yard, and others weighing a pound.

199. The invoice price of these various pieces of cloth varies from 2s. 6d. to 10s. or 15s.

200. The cost of bleaching and finishing upon a piece worth 2s. 6d., may be 4d.; upon a piece worth 10s., may be 10d.; upon that costing 15s., one shilling.

201. The cost price to the merchant will, therefore, be these sums together.

202. The expense of bleaching and finishing upon the first is, therefore, about 12 per cent.; of the second, 8 per cent.; of the last, about 7 per cent.

203. Supposing we were obliged, by this Bill, to get through $12\frac{1}{2}$ hours' work in $10\frac{1}{2}$, we could only do so by adding to our machinery and labour in the same ratio, i.e., about 16 per cent., of which, labour would constitute about one-third, and machinery about two-thirds.

204. Supposing, therefore, a person had now 100,000*l.* embarked in the trade, he would be obliged, if this Bill passed, to employ 116,000*l.*

205. At present we do not see our way to any improvements, either of our chemical processes or by increasing the rapidity of the machinery, by which we should be compensated in our returns for the additional outlay; at the same time, it would be rather too much to assert that our present processes are so perfect as to admit of no improvement.

206. My impression is, that, if we wished to continue to do the same amount of work, we should be obliged to embark the additional amount of capital at once, and to run the risk of its being profitable.

207. We have great doubt whether any rise in our prices, to meet this additional outlay, would be either possible or desirable.

208. It may not be desirable for two reasons. First, that it might indispose the merchant to send goods to be bleached at all. As it is, the returns show that only five per cent. of the plain cotton pieces exported are sent out in a bleached state. A rise in the price of bleaching might induce the merchant to send them out unbleached. They very often refuse, as it is, to have cloths bleached, because they have so small a margin against the foreigner in foreign markets. The second risk is, that an increase of price would give the foreign bleachers an advantage.

209. THOMAS HOLME (Messrs. Ridgway Bridson, Bleach and Dye-Works, Lever Bank, near Bolton).—I manage the mangling piece. I have about 17 men under me in this place (mangling), and eight women and girls, and 10 boys. Our hours are, when we are busy, from 6 to 9 the very longest, not for a whole week together at any time, but for two or three days in the week. We are subject to be busy in all seasons, and have been for several years.

210. Two machines go night and day with one man, two boys, and three females to each; the night set come on at 7 p.m., and leave off at 6, but stop till between 7 and 8 to

assist while the others are getting their breakfasts; this has been going on so for a year or two. When the new machinery is ready, we shall not be obliged to work night and day. There is another machine in the finishing department which sometimes goes night and day; it takes two lads, one about 14 years, the other from 18 to 20.

211. JOSEPH SHAPLEA.—I am in my 20th year. I have worked here eight or nine years. I think all the lads would be glad to have short hours; many a time they have to stop off work, they are poorly from being tired. I feel tired many times, but I dare not stop off; I would like the short time Bill, though I might earn less money, because we should have more time, and it would be better for us. I am pretty strong, but I think I should be stronger and better if we worked short hours.

212. HENRY PARTINGTON.—I am going on 19 years of age. I have worked here 3½ years. We do not often work so very long hours, sometimes from 6 to 8 and 9. I believe the lads are all of one mind as to wishing to have short hours. For my part, I should like to have them, so that I might have a little bit of learning.

213. GEORGE HOUGH.—I am going on 14. I have worked here going on three years. "Is there any signs of the ten hours Bill being gotten?" "I am come to ask questions about it. Do you wish to have it?" "Eh?" "Why?" "I should think myself a deal better off." "I should not be half as tired at night as I am now. I am many a time so tired of a morning that I can scarce get up; my feet get the skin off many a time. I should like very well if we could have the Bill, though I might not earn so much."

214. SAMUEL PEARSON.—I am manager of the dressing shop. We start most times at 6 a.m., sometimes sooner, and go on when work comes in till 8, 9, and 10, without stopping; one stops for meals while the other goes on. I have four boys with me under 18; they cannot miss being tired at night, and in summer it is nearly melting, it is so hot. The lads are off sometimes from sickness; one was off for a week or two, the others now and then. All the young men wish for the ten hours Bill, I am sure they do; and I myself wish for it very much; it would be better for health for all of us. I have been here between 4 and 5 years. I feel that it is too long to work as we do often when we are busy, sometimes for months together. If there is a "push" we are agate from 4 or 5 in the morning till 9 or 10 at night, sometimes only for a day or two, but sometimes for a week or a month. We feel it very much, in summer time especially.

215. ROBERT KIRKMAN.—I belong to the stove. There are 4 men in the stove and 11 boys. Two boys stop every night till 10, 11, or 12 o'clock, beginning at 6 in the morning. It is hot "by times" while they are at work, but most times cool; in summer time it is difficult to get cool, the heat stops in, and then sometimes it is shocking—I mean, we feel it very much. I should like very well the ten hours Bill. We could dry between 6 and 6 a good deal more cloth than we do now, if we could be kept agate. Those boys who work from 6 to 10, 11, or 12 at night, do not go on longer the next day than 3 or 5. They have one long day and one short day.

216. WILLIAM RAWSTHORPE.—The manager of the making-up room is absent. I am the book-keeper, and am conversant with the hours of work. In the making-up rooms there are 8 men and 26 females; four of these are from 11 to 13, and the rest from 13 to 21; one is 35. They work by sets. Last Friday, for example, one set began at 2 o'clock a.m., and worked till 12 p.m., nearly 22 hours, but this is very rare, not one time in 3 months. They came again from 6 to 7 on Saturday morning. We work generally till 7 or 8 on Saturday evening. The usual hours of work in the making-up room are from half past 6 in the morning till 9 or 10 at night. One set out of that goes home at tea-time (5 o'clock), and comes back at 2 a.m.; they then work till 5 p.m. They will do this all the week through. The six sets take the night-work in turn, so that the night set works at night one week out of six.

217. Of the four girls under 18, two begin at 2 a.m. and work till 5 p.m. every day every alternate week. The other two begin at 6 a.m. and leave off from 9 till 10 with the other sets. The following week they will take the place of the other two, and work from 2 a.m. till 5 p.m. for the week. They do this regularly; we are very seldom slack. As they grow up, they are put to hooking and other work. There are many in that room that are often off work from fatigue. One was off five days last month, and another four days. The month before, one was off 14 days, another 12, another 6; and others 3 and 4 days; this I believe was caused by the long hours. In November one was off 13 days, another 6, another 4, another 3, and so on. In October two were off 5 days, another 3½. In September one was off 21 days; she had fits, and the doctor said they were brought on by the long hours, and he requested that she might be put to work for 6 or 8 hours a day; another was off 20 days, two more 3 and 2. In August the same girl who has fits was off 13 days, another 5, another 4, another 3 and 2. In July one was off 13 days, another 7. All these particulars are taken from the scrap memorandum book. If we were to look through the whole, it would show about the same as the above.

218. THOMAS GREENHALGH (Messrs. Ridgway Bridson's Bleach-works, Bolton).—I am foreman of the white making-up room. Our hours in the three slack months of the year are very irregular. We endeavour to give over during daylight, without burning any gas; but sometimes we light the gas and go on later. In the other nine months we are generally busy. Some of us begin a little after 6, and all are agate by 7; and we go on till 8, 9, 10, and sometimes 11 and 12. The regular time to stop is between 9 and 10.

219. We have in this room 6 men, 11 women, and 16 or 17 girls; no boys. I do not know but they would all be better with shorter hours; they would be more cheerful and up to their work. If the short time Bill was to pass, the work might be so arranged that there would be no difficulty in stopping exactly at 6. We might get everything straight by that hour, by arranging it so beforehand.

220. ABRAHAM COOPER.—I am 32 years old; I have worked in bleach-works 18 years. I do not think but my health would be better if I had not worked such long hours. I have felt it in my health; I was never so hearty as many others. I should like the short hours Bill. I do not think but it would be better both for master and servant. All would be able to work harder during the day, and would get over nearly as much work.

221. MARGARET GREEN.—I have worked here about five years. I have often been knocked up by these long hours; it is frequently the case with the girls, it is very trying. I know they are all in this room very anxious for the short time Bill.

222. ESTHER HAMPSON.—I have been often ill with working such long hours. I have suffered in my legs and ankles, and from my feet being sore.

223. ELLEN POTTER.—I have worked here close on 9 years. I have just been ill with fever; I believe I caught it from being so long at my work, and going home so late at night. I have buried one little sister; my parents always thought it was from the long hours. She came here at 10, and was 14 when she died, and she used to work very long hours; she was ill ten days only. I had very hard work to stand last week, when I came back from the fever. I have often suffered great pain in my legs and ankles from standing so much and moving about all the day.

224. MARY ANNE COPPERTHWAITE.—I have worked here going on 9 years. I have been often so bad with pain in my legs and feet that I could hardly get up in the morning, and I have been sometimes that I could scarcely get home at night. I am going on 20.

225. JANE PLATE.—I am 23; I have worked here 13 years. I have never been ill more than a day or two; but it is very tiring standing at this work so long. I have often had great pain in my legs and ankles. I wish much for the short hours, though I might not earn so much as I do now.

226. ALICE HAMPSON.—I am going in 16. My feet are almost always sore. I have worked here 8 years.

227. ELLEN MOORE.—I have had to get on up and down as well as I could with my sore feet. They have ached very much. I am going on 14. I have worked here 8 years next Easter Monday.

228. MARGARET FARRER.—I have had "the aching legs" many a time. In summer my feet have been very often sore. I was 16 the 3d of the month; I have worked here 5 years. I have never been ill so as to be off my work, but I have many a time a sick head-ache.

229. NANCY HOPWOOD.—I have been working here 11 years. I have never been off my work from sickness, but I have been very "ill tired" many a time, and should like the shorter hours; they would be better for the girls and women. Some that are strong can stand it better than others; but others have to rest many times from the fatigue,—I mean, they have to stay at home to rest.

230. ESTHER WOLFERDEN.—I have worked here 32 years. When I was young I used to suffer from the long hours. We worked longer hours then than we do now. We work now when we are busy from a little after 6 to about 9, and on Friday night it will be later. These hours are too long, especially for the younger ones.

231. MARY STANLEY.—I have worked here 22 years. I have felt very much fatigued and wearied sometimes; but we work shorter hours now than we used to do; but the hours even now are too long for the health and comfort of the females.

232. ALICE POTTER.—I am 19. I have worked here close on nine years. I have several times been off my work for a few days together, and am often very tired with the long days. I call a long day from 6 or 7 till 9 or 10. We very often work those hours, and sometimes later. We never know in a morning what time we are to get home at night. I have often had the skin off my feet. I think the short time system would be better for our health, and better in every other way.

233. NANCY GREENWOOD.—I am going on 17. I have had sore feet, and my legs often ache with standing and working so long.

234. [Eight other younger girls all said they had had sore feet, and some said they had had swelled ankles, chiefly in summer; and three said they had not.]

235. WILLIAM RAWSTHORNE.—I am 22. I have worked here nearly three years. I think the short time "wants getting" in the bleaching and finishing and dyeing establishments, all these, principally for the females; and for the boys and young men, that they may have the privilege of getting educated similar to others. I think I should not be so weakly-looking (though I am not ill) if I had not worked such long hours. All the young men in our set wish for the short hours.

236. ANN SIMPSON (14), ELIZABETH HILTON (15), SARAH HIGSON (16).—We came to work last Friday morning at half-past 6. We worked all Friday night till half-past 5 on Saturday morning. We did not stop to sleep any time in the night, except on Saturday morning at half-past 5 we lay down to sleep on the hooking box, and slept till a little after 7; then we went to breakfast for half-an-hour, and then came and worked till 10 minutes past 11.

237. [S. HIGSON said she had worked four or five times all night. ANN SIMPSON, three or four times. ELIZABETH HILTON, only once.]

238. PRUTHIAN MONKS.—I am foreman of the dyeing and making-up room. I worked last Friday till Saturday morning with those three girls, and what they have said is correct. I worked all night with these three three times that they mention, but they were some time ago.

239. There is an order put up on the door of this room (the white making-up room) saying that no females are to work except between 6 and 8. It is dated December 4; but it was violated in the same week that it was put up, and has never been acted upon since, except when they have had nothing to do.

240. THOMAS GREENHALGH, foreman (having heard the above evidence read over to him).—I cannot see that there is anything wrong in it. "Is there any chance for the Bill being passed this session? I think the young men, as well as the females, would be glad that it should pass this session."

241. WRIGHT MATHER.—I am foreman of the clamping-room. I have four lasses working under me. We sometimes have two sets working, one the night set, the other the day set. In summer I have seen the room 130° hot; in winter it is generally about 80° to 100°. We have come at 6 a.m. and worked till 9 p.m. all last week. When we work night and day the hours are 12 for each set. We often work night and day for weeks together when we are busy.

242. There are four clamping-rooms, and when they are all agate there are 16 females at work in them.

243. In the other drying-place (the progressing frames) there are five boys; they work very often 16, 17, and 18 hours to the day. The heat is very great in that room, from 100° to 150°, and that is under the mark. The boys have to sit down and work the little engines. [See further § 1335.]

244. ROBERT LONGWORTH.—I work in the stiffening department of the dye-works. All kinds of colours are stiffened. There are some colours that might take harm if they were not stiffened and dried at once when they have been begun. If the law was to say that the boys were to stop work at 6, and I had a piece in that dangerous state, I could send them away and finish it myself.

245. JAMES STONES.—I am foreman of the dyers. We dye all kinds of fancy colours, all calicoes and muslins. We can all arrange, men and boys, to stop any part of the process at half an hour's notice, so that nothing shall take any harm. If the law was to say that the boys must stop at 6, we could arrange for all the men to work on to 6. We might leave a batch of 23 (24 yards) pieces, that might hurt, till next morning, only we should have to run it through water again; that would take about 10 minutes. That is the extent of the hurry. We have here about 30 dyers, and only two boys employed to get up cloth ready.

246. WM. CROFTON.—I am 17. I have been four years and a half in the dressing shop. There is one boy beside. We come at half-past 6 sometimes, and go on till different hours, sometimes early, sometimes late. I worked once three days and three nights, and not long since I began work on Friday morning at 4 p.m. and worked till 5 on Saturday night. I mostly slept at meal times, and only stopped one hour for meals, the rest I eat while I was working.

247. The pieces of cloth that run over the hot iron run from 50 yards to 120; the general length is 24 yards. It takes only five minutes to run the longest batch over.

248. [Where steam power is employed they have the means of lifting up the cloth from the hot plate or the gas, and can stop at any time in the middle of a piece of any length, by pulling out the stitching.—PHILIP MORIS.]

249. WM. CROFTON.—I worked in the machine bleaching department 18 months. Most times in those 18 months I came to work between 4 and 5, and was very glad if it was sometimes 6; and we used more times to give over between 7 and 8, and always in a wet state.

250. THOS. FARRINGTON.—I am 17. I worked in the machine bleaching about 2 years, generally when we were very busy with shirtings we used to begin at 4 and go on till 9 and 10. There are now four boys with those machines. I am now in the hand bleaching. I come at 6 as a general thing, and work till 7 and 8. There is a night set, and one out of the day set has to stay all night till 6 o'clock the next morning. I have had to do that for a month together, once every week, sometimes twice. Generally it is a man that does it.

251. MESSRS. BLAIR AND SUMNER, Millhill Bleach-Works, Bolton. The following is a statement of the average working hours in the under-mentioned departments, from 1st Aug. to 31st Dec. 1854:—

	Hours per Day.
Stitching (grey cloth) - - - - -	average 8' 607
Crofting (bleaching) - - - - -	" 9' 415
Mangling - - - - -	" 10' 20
Stoving (drying) - - - - -	" 11' 44
Calendering (finishing) - - - - -	" 10' 75
Making-up and packing - - - - -	" 10' 25
	60' 662
Average of the whole - - - - -	10' 110

252. Mr. ———, * manager of Messrs. Blair and Sumner's works, stated.—In the mangling department we have only started once in the last six months before 6 o'clock, and we always stop at 10.

253. The working hours of two long weeks were as follows:—

14, 13, 11, 10, 8, 13 = 69	- - - - -	average 11½
13, 13, 11, 13, 12, 10 = 72	- - - - -	" 12

254. The above statement of average hours from Aug. to Dec. includes five working days, when we stopped. In round numbers, 50 hours. As the time above specified (from 1st August to 30th December) includes 130 working days, those five days must be deducted, leaving 125. Of those five days, one was the day of Radcliffe races, when the people stopped for their own amusement; on the other four our machinery was undergoing repairs. They therefore made up the time lost, by working more hours on the days following. Deducting those five days, the average becomes 10' 518.†

255. The females and boys all begin and end work at the same time as the men.

256. The above departments includes all we have, except millwrights and spindemen.

257. Those employed in stitching are all females.

258. In crofting, there are no females, only boys and men.

259. In mangling, there are females and boys.

260. In stoving, boys and men.

261. In calendering, there is only one female.

262. In making up and packing, there are females and boys. This department employs the greatest number of females.

263. The crofting employs most boys.

264. We have no hot places where either boys and females are employed.

265. In the stitching department the females have oftener started at 8 and 9 than at any other hours. They generally finish at 8 or 9 at night; sometimes as late as 10 or 11. Their average is the shortest of the whole, namely, 8' 607.

266. In the stoving, they make a point of beginning, if possible, about half-past 5, and they seldom or ever work later than 10.

* I omitted to ask this name.

† A proof of the necessity of asseverating statements of this kind, from the books.

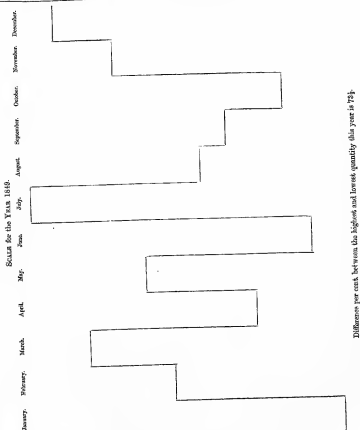
267. In the calendaring, they generally begin at 5 a.m., and end at various hours.

268. In the making up, the hours of beginning and ending vary greatly also.

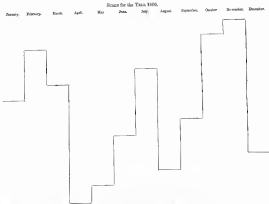
269. In the whole of the departments, it does not follow that the hands are working the whole number of hours stated above, and it very often happens that each set has to wait for work to serve to them from the preceding sets.

270. All the work is piece-work. The bleachers reckon that they can earn one day's wages in somewhat less than eight hours. The other departments reckon pretty much in the same manner; so that if the females or boys in any department work 16 hours they would make two days' wages; in 12 hours they can earn a day and a half, and so on.

271. The work carried on at these works consists chiefly of bleaching and finishing plain long cloths or shirtings. There is a much larger quantity of plain goods bleached and finished than fancy or figured goods. The following tables show the fluctuations in the amount of work in the different months of the years 1849 to 1853* :—



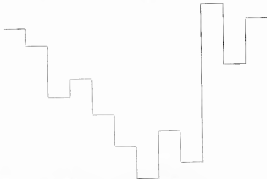
* These tables were made out simply for Mr. Blair's private information, to ascertain the quantity of work done. Mr. Blair has similar tables for the last 12 years.



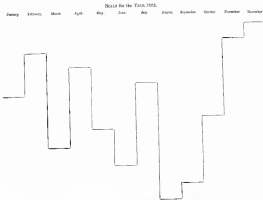
Difference per cent. between the highest and lowest quantity this year is 75.

State for the Year 1877

January February March April May June July August September October November December



Difference per cent. between the highest and lowest quality. One year = 15

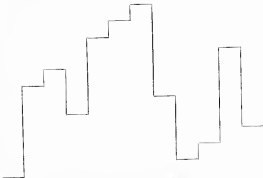


1000000 per cent, between the highest and lowest quality this year to 1952.

Scale for the Year 1975

January February March April May June July August September October November December

100



Difference per cent between the highest and lowest quality this year is 1975

272. Persons employed at Messrs. Blair and Sumner's Bleach Works, Bolton, 18th January 1855:—

273. JANE KAY.—I am 17. I have been working here two years. Since new year's day we have come at half-past 4 and 5 o'clock, and worked till 8 and 9. We stop for meal times, and not at any other time. Sometimes we have to wait for the cloth, but we have not waited this long time. When there are "pushers" on, we come towards 1 o'clock in the morning, and work till towards 4 at night. We then come about 5 o'clock the next morning, and work till about 9. Sometimes, I come twice a week at 1 o'clock in the morning and work till 9 at night. I have sometimes sore feet, but they do not get hot; they are very hard at bottom. They get sore about the middle of my foot. Last year I had a very bad ankle, and my ankle bone was growing out. My father is a millwright.

274. ELLEN LALAN.—I have worked here two years. I have often sore feet; the skin comes off, and they are very sore.

275. MR. NICHOLSON, manager.—There are 19 females in this room, 12 of them are under 18. Although these girls say they come at the hours they mention, they are the hours at which they are ordered to come; but they frequently come from a quarter of an hour to an hour later, sometimes even later than that. They are correct in saying they go away between 8 and 9; and sometimes, also, they begin work at 12 o'clock at night, and may do so two nights following. But when that is the case, they give over at tea-time, 5 o'clock. In some cases, when they come at 12 at night, they will work till 8 or 9 the following evening.

276. MARY HAYWARD.—I am 22 years old. I have worked here 8 years. We all in the room are ordered to come generally at 5 o'clock, but it is generally 6 before we begin to work; and we leave off about 8 or 9, sometimes 7, sometimes 10. I should like very well a short-time Bill to be passed. I make now generally a day and a half's wage every day. If the Bill was to pass, and I could not make a day's wage, I would chance that. We should be willing to pay for it. If we were to work shorter hours we could make our own clothes; now we have to pay for that. Every girl in the room would like a short-time Bill, though they would earn less wages.

277. RICHARD KAY.—I am nearly 14 years. I have been working here for about 2 years. I have often sore feet; they bleed sometimes, and I have had swelled ankles, and my ankle bone has been growing out. My father works at Mr. Hough's Foundry.

278. ESTHER COOPER.—I am 19. I have worked here 12 months. Last summer I was very unwell from these long hours. I used to faint sometimes when I got up in the morning. I have suffered very bad in summer from swelled ankles, and from my feet. The bottoms of my feet are always worst. I worked in bleach-works before I came here; four years before. My father works in this room. I should like the short-time Bill very much, though I should earn only a day's wage instead of a day and a half, or two; I should earn what would keep me, and my health would be the better; and I should be able to get more learning.

279. JANE SPENCER.—I am going on 16. I have been working at hooking four years on Saturday; I generally come to work at 5 o'clock in the morning, and stay to between 8 and 9 "to-night." When there are busy "pushers," I come at 1 or 2 in the morning, and stay till 7 or 8 to-night; it is not often that we do this two days together. The next day we will come at about 5 in the morning and work till about 7 at night. The next morning we will come about 5 o'clock, and work till about 8. When I have to come at 1 or 2 o'clock, sometimes it does not come above once in a week, sometimes it is twice in a week, but not often. I have never been off work above a day. My feet are very sore in summer, and are very hot; the skin is off very often, and the soles of my feet are blood-raw. My father works in this room.

280. MARY ANN NIKLOVA.—I am going on 13; I have been working here going on for two years. I come to work sometimes at 5, sometimes at 7, 8, or 9 o'clock; sometimes, when there are "pushers" on, I come at 12 o'clock at night, and generally go home at tea-time next day; I have sometimes sore feet; sometimes my heels, sometimes my toes are sore. My father is a coachman.

281. THOMAS SPENCER.—I am 12 years of age. I have been working here six months; my employment is sorting ropes for packing. I come at 5 o'clock in the morning, and am always here at that hour, and go home sometimes at 9, sometimes at 10. On Fridays we work all night sometimes. I come on Friday morning at breakfast-time; on Friday evenings at 6 o'clock I go home and go to bed for four hours. I feel very tired when I leave off on Saturday morning; my feet are often blood-raw, and they pain me; they are bad in the summer. I wear clogs and woollen stockings. My father is the stamper here.

282. JOHN COOPER.—I am foreman of the packers. Thomas Spencer is ordered to come at 5; he generally begins actually working at half-past 5 or 6; he is not on the premises before that; he leaves off sometimes at 5¹/₂, at 6, 7, 8, and 9, very seldom later. In the last six months I do not think that he has worked all night except once, although he says he worked so once in November and twice in December.

253. Female workers at Mr. Bealey's Bleach Works, Baddiffe, near Bury:—

254. SARAH LOMAS—I worked at factory, but it was too hard for me. I like this work better, though I sometimes work from 6 to 12 at night. It was a hot place in the factory, and hard work; and it was the smell that did not agree with me. I make more money here by the long hours, many times double wages. Last month I made 12 shillings a week, but I would rather the short time Bill passed, and I only made 8 or 9 shillings. I should not mind going on till 8 sometimes, but I do not like being so late.

255. ELIZA WOLBERTON.—I shall be 11 next March. I have been here two Christmas Days. I come at 6 and get home at 9 or a little after, sometimes past 10; I am often very tired, and my feet blister at bottom, and are very sore. Mother puts some stuff to it that makes the new skin come. My father is a joiner.*

256. Messrs. TOOTAL, BROADHURST, and LEE.—We are manufacturers of plain and fancy muslin goods, for the American and home trade. The American trade is a season trade. Our orders come in for the spring trade in October, November, and December, and are delivered by the middle to the end of January. A period then of two months elapses, in which the orders are very small both in number and amount, as appears from our order-book which I have shown you.

257. The goods for this market are kept in the grey or unbleached state. This is necessary, to a great extent, because we do not know on what finish or with what mark our customers may require them. We keep a certain quantity in the finished state, that for which we have the greatest demand. There are three kinds of finish; one called the common finish, for which the demand is the greatest.

258. We supply pattern-books to the shippers, with the view of obtaining orders from them. These books are shown to their customers in the United States, and from them the orders are given. In one quality alone we have about 250 different patterns. This pattern-book, containing patterns suited to the American market, contains about 5,000 patterns. It is impossible for us to learn beforehand how many pieces of any particular pattern may be ordered at any one time, or the finish and mark to be put upon them. We therefore cannot keep any large quantity in store finished, but find it to our interest to keep the goods in the unfinished state.

259. Supposing the hours of labour for females and boys to be limited by Act of Parliament, the bleacher, in order to get through the same amount of work in the same time as at present, would either have to extend his works, or employ adult labour.

260. It is our interest to have our goods finished by the same bleacher whom we usually employ, because our character as manufacturers is associated with the finish usually put upon the goods.

261. The same principle applies to the home trade, to a limited extent. We are generally most busy for the home trade in the spring.

262. The great bleaching and dyeing business of the country is in plain and fancy shirtings, jaconets, twills, and wools (a finer kind of jaconet).

263. The price paid to different bleachers varies considerably. We think it our interest to pay at least 10 per cent. more for one bleacher's finish than for another's. The cost of bleaching different qualities of cloth varies considerably also; from 25 per cent. on the lowest qualities of grey cloth, costing about two-pence a yard, to 5 per cent. upon the highest, costing sixteen-pence per yard. Supposing a bleacher to be obliged to raise his prices ten per cent., it would be to him a very important addition. Ten per cent. upon the present cost of bleaching would not make any material difference in the selling price of the goods, provided all were to pay alike.

264. The cost of bleaching a piece of 12 yards, sold for 2s., or 2d. per yard, would be 5d., or about 25 per cent.; and upon one of the same length, costing 16d. a yard (16s.) would be 7d., or about three per cent.

265. An addition of another 10 per cent. (20 per cent. on present cost) upon the cost of bleaching would make, for a piece costing 16s., only three-halfpence; and upon a piece costing two shillings (the lowest quality) would be a penny, or three and three-quarters per cent. upon the value of the article. Even this could make no important difference with regard to the foreign trade, though, as a general principle, it is of course undesirable to add in any way to the cost of articles on which we have to meet competition abroad.

266. My opinion, however, is, that if such a rise of price were to be carried into effect it would only be unsustained for a time. The workmen are of a contrary opinion, and that they would gain the benefit of the increase. But the competition is now so close that means would be sought for, and probably soon found, to do away with some of the manual labour now employed, as has taken place in the factories.

267. Mr. LEOPOLD REISS (L. Reiss and Co., largely engaged as general merchants) stated—My opinion is, that if it is proved that the boys and females in bleach-works suffer in health or otherwise from working the present long hours, they are fair subjects for legis-

* I was occupied at these works principally in considering with Mr. Bealey the general question of the arrangements that might be most satisfactory to employers and workmen, supposing legislation to be found to be necessary. Mr. Bealey's establishment is amongst the largest in the trade, and bears the character of being one of the best arranged, and best conducted.

lative protection. A limitation of their hours of labour might occasionally produce inconvenience to the merchants, but I think it would by degrees adjust itself, except in some cases, when orders arrive just before a vessel is going to sail, and there would be no other opportunity of shipment for a few weeks or even longer. Sometimes, as in the case of goods going to China, if a vessel misses the monsoon it might make a couple of months difference. But this is an exceptional case. Merchants would have to think of their orders a little beforehand.

298. **M. LEISLER** (Du Fay and Co.).—We are largely engaged in the export trade in cotton and other goods to nearly all parts of the world. I am of opinion that, if the labour of females and boys in bleach-works were to be limited by Act of Parliament, very little inconvenience would arise to the shipping merchants. If we had occasion to execute a large order in a limited time, and could not get the whole quantity of cloth of a particular finish from one bleacher within that time, we should divide the order among several. There are several whose finish is sufficiently alike to enable us to employ them for similar kinds of work. Some inconveniences might occasionally arise from our not being able to execute a particular order for the United States, but the business in bleached cloth with the United States is not of a very large amount. Probably no change of the kind in question could take place without giving rise to some inconvenience, but the parties affected would learn to adjust themselves to it.

299. The only question which might arise as an objection is, how far any enhancement of price that might ensue would render it more difficult to compete with adjacent countries.

300. **Mr. MATHER** (evidence confirmed by a gentleman of the firm).—I am warehouseman to Messrs. Haeserman, and much connected with the orders given to the bleachers for cotton goods.

301. For goods destined for the home trade, the bleachers require us to give them a certain time to execute the order, from 10 to 14 days. The goods being delivered in heavy lots to the bleachers, from different large houses at the same time, it is often impossible to get back a lot under a month.

302. The orders for the foreign trade being required, in most cases, to be executed within limited time, the bleachers are compelled to work overtime to complete them.

303. There are some bleachers who execute certain finishes in a superior manner, and have, therefore, a greater demand. Each principal bleacher has a particular finish of his own in which he excels, and which the others try to imitate.

304. If we had an order from abroad or the home market for the finish of any particular bleacher, we could not venture to send that of another bleacher, however good the imitation might be. We do at times, but very seldom. More often for the shipping trade. The finishes for the foreign trade are more easily imitated than those for the home trade.

305. When foreign houses order goods by certain ships we are compelled to send them, as frequently the parties effect the insurance on the other side of the Atlantic.

306. Our business is principally in the home and Canadian markets. We send, in the course of the year, large quantities of cotton goods to the bleachers. The occasions when it may be necessary for us, under present arrangements, to send an unusual quantity at a time to be bleached, or to require a lot of cloth to be sent back in a very short space of time, by which the bleacher is, as it is termed, "pushed," to get through the order, are exceptional cases. The orders for the home trade have for some years past been becoming more evenly distributed throughout the year. Formerly the home trade was, to a great extent, a season trade. Now the facility given by railways causes our customers to come here every two or three weeks, and order what they want in smaller quantities from the goods we keep in store. When we find any particular description of goods running short, we send cloth to the bleachers to be finished and returned to us.

307. As regards the Canadian trade, it used also formerly to be almost entirely a season trade. The purchasers gave their orders in February and March, to be executed in April. They were then dependent, to a great extent, on the navigation of the St. Lawrence. Now the railways are fast making the trade quite independent of that mode of communication, and the orders are becoming more and more distributed throughout the year.

308. **Mr. JOHN SLAGG** (J. Slagg & Co., Manchester).—We are manufacturers of cotton goods, and are also commission agents. We have occasion to employ the bleachers largely. I am generally conversant with the state of the people employed at several bleach-works, and I am of opinion that there is a class of children and women employed in bleach-works that requires the protection of the Legislature. They are employed very often a very undue number of hours, although their parents, who work with them, may be, in many cases, earning very high wages. The irregularity of the employment induces the men to work sometimes night and day as long as their strength lasts. An imitation of the hours of labour for females and boys would probably lead to a more regular distribution of the work at the bleach-works. At present, as we know that a bleacher will undertake to bleach and finish (say) 1,000 pieces of cloth in five days, we, in some cases of sudden orders, only give him five days to do it in. If, in consequence of legislative interference on behalf of the females and boys, we knew that such an order could not be executed under seven or ten days, we should be obliged to make our arrangements beforehand, so as to give him seven or ten days.

309. If one bleacher (A.) could not execute the whole or any particular quantity we wished to have finished by a certain time, we should send part of the order to another (B.). On another occasion it might be that the latter (B.) would be nearly full when we wished an order to be quickly executed, and we should send the next batch of cloth to A.; so that if one bleacher lost a part of an order on one occasion, it would be made up to him on another. If the hours were limited for females and boys, it is possible that, rather than run the risk of this, the bleachers would all make great efforts to enlarge their works, and keep more hands ready to be employed, so as to get through as much work as they do at present in a given time. They could only do this by laying out more capital, for which they must be compensated by a rise of price. My opinion is, that a rise of price sufficient to compensate them for this additional outlay, would do no injury to trade. The cost of bleaching is so trifling compared with the price of the grey cloth, that a moderate per centage (say to the amount of ten per cent.) upon the former could be borne without danger or difficulty.

310. If the legislation contemplated were to oblige a general rise of the charge for bleaching, &c., to the above amount, as it would be alike for all purchasers, it would make no difference. Such a rise would not endanger our position in the foreign markets.

311. I dislike the idea of legislative interference in matters of trade; but if a case is made out requiring it, I consider it justifiable.

312. We might possibly occasionally lose a season for a shipment or two, if we could not execute a sudden order as readily as at present towards the end of the season, but such cases would be exceptional.*

313. Mr. JOHN FENDER and Mr. COWAN, Commission Agents, and on a very large scale, for the purchase of cotton goods for all the markets of the world, stated to me, that although, in their opinion, every legislative restriction on trade was to be avoided as far as possible, as tending to embarrass its operations; yet, as regards the hours of labour of females and children in bleach-works, they considered them to be at times much too long, and that some limitation should be put to them by the Legislature.

314. The result of such legislation might be, occasionally to prevent an order being executed at the time required.

315. As, for instance, he might receive an order for a certain quantity of bleached goods to be shipped by a certain day, but which in consequence of the additional time required by the bleacher, could not be accomplished; and there is no doubt the rapidity with which goods can be brought forward materially increases the trade.

316. Towards the end of the shipping season to India and China this would be most felt, if much restriction was placed on the operations of the bleachers.

317. Mr. Fender and Mr. Cowan considered that when the trade got accommodated to the new system these difficulties would diminish, and that the greater regularity in the arrangements of the bleachers would enable them to conduct their business with very little additional cost.

318. Mr. DOBBSGTON (of the firm of George Fraser and Co., commission merchants for foreign markets):—

319. We are engaged in the putting up all kinds of cotton goods for export, to nearly all the markets in the world. Ours is probably one of the most regular and least fluctuating businesses of this class in the trade. We have occasion continually to send large quantities of goods to bleachers. The statement now exhibited to you is that of the monthly transactions with our bleacher for the last five years, and indicates the actual fluctuation of work in each year. From this statement it appears, that in each year there are fluctuations in some months which, as compared to others, are considerable, some being half as much again as others, and some nearly three times that of others, and without any regularity as to the months in which they occur. Sometimes there will be three or four months together when the work will be tolerably regular. These fluctuations are occasioned by fluctuations in actual demand for the various foreign markets, and if exhibited from week to week they would be very much greater.

320. The Brazil markets will afford an illustration. The shipping to these markets is generally smallest from June to September; but notwithstanding that, our orders have often been largest in those months. While the festivals are going on there is not much business, and also during the rainy months. You can send a cargo there at any time of the year, and ships are constantly going there.

321. The Bombay market is a season market, and when the monsoon has been favourable, and there has been consequently a good harvest in India, or if the supplies there are

* A gentleman largely engaged in this kind of business illustrated to me the working of the trade, in reference to sudden demands for goods to sail by certain ships within a given number of days, by two instances, in letters that day received from two different correspondents, A. and B.

A. had previously written to order 5,000 pieces of bleached goods of a specified kind, to be ready in February. Mr. ——— had answered that he could only send him 2,500 in February, but that he might have the rest in March. A. replied accepting the proposal.

B. wrote to order ——— pieces of certain bleached goods to be delivered in London on the 15th day of February, to go by a ship which was to sail on that day, otherwise the goods not to be sent. Mr. ——— was about to reply that he could not undertake to have them ready before some time in March; and Mr. ——— did not doubt that he should receive instructions respecting the order for the date in March which he should specify.

limited, the demand is sudden, and great efforts are made here to dispatch goods, so as to arrive before the termination of the season of business.

322. The shipping for the Bombay market goes on from March to the end of November. The season out there begins about June, in ordinary circumstances, and ends at the commencement of the monsoon, about the month of April following. If we hear that the market is favourable, we frequently have occasion to send out additional supplies toward the end of the season; and if the bleachers could not prepare the quantity of goods in the same time that they do now, the amount would have to be curtailed, or a supply would be sought from other countries.

323. The same remarks apply generally to other markets, even where special seasons do not exist.

324. At present there is an enormous demand for certain classes of bleached goods for the Levant markets, arising mainly from the large expenditure of money going on in connexion with the war, together with the good harvest there of last year. To my knowledge, two or three of the bleach-works, which finish that class of goods, have been at work night and day for six or seven months, and have at the present time many weeks' work beforehand, for which there is the same urgent demand, so that merchants are obliged to wait their turn to get such work done. Our orders for this class of goods have been at least ten times the quantity in the last six months of this year that they were in the first six. They are for light thin fabrics of small value. Whatever portion of them could not be bleached would probably go out grey. The parties who are employed for this have got a name for this kind of finish; and rather than take other parties' work the merchants would not send any goods of the kind, inasmuch as these have a name from their style of work which others have not attained to.

325. The average selling price of a piece of goods of thin quality may be 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.; at present, the cost of bleaching is twopence halfpenny to threepence of that sum, or about three per cent. upon the value. A rise of 20 per cent. upon the bleaching would make the cost of bleaching threepence and five eighths, or say one per cent. extra upon the value of the goods.

326. This recent demand has been unexpected, and is quite an exceptional case in that market, so that no one would permanently provide machinery in anticipation to meet such a pressure.

327. Assuming that the bleachers have been working 24 hours per day throughout that time, it would have taken them twice the time to have executed this work under a twelve hours system; and my opinion is, that a very large proportion of this would have been lost, not the whole, because we probably should have sent out the nearest approximation to the article that we could have obtained.

328. A similarly sudden and great demand may very possibly arise for the China market, should the present disturbances suddenly come to an end by the success of either party. The markets have been for some time very irregularly supplied. When this sudden demand arises the bleachers may be called upon to work extra hours, (say) sixteen hours a day. If a law were to interpose which obliged them to work only twelve, they could only supply two thirds of the amount that they could under present circumstances within the same time; and the probable effect in China would be, that the other third would be supplied by other countries. The Chinese might not obtain the precise article they might desire, but the best substitute.

329. We have frequently sudden orders for various markets for goods to be shipped with urgency by a particular day. It appears by the correspondence laid before you that circumstances of this kind are now being acted upon for Fern. If our goods could not have gone out by this ship, we probably should have lost the market. We had occasion to push the bleachers for this. When a demand springs up, every one is anxious to be first in the market; and if goods were delayed from this country, the supply would in part come from some other.

330. My opinion is, that children in bleach-works or any other works ought not to be employed before a certain age, say 12 or 14, but that no limitation should take place with regard to the labour of adult males or females. I would rather see a limitation of hours of work brought about by general arrangement, as took place in Manchester in 1845-6. We were about the first shipping house that gave our countenance to the movement. Our clerks used before to be employed on Saturdays to a late hour. We have subsequently materially curtailed the general hours of labour in our warehouse, save in packing, which is all done by men, and by piece-work. We have ascertained by experience that our work is better done, but the work I now speak of is rather mental than mechanical.

Manchester, 1st February 1855.

331. Mr. SOOTHY, partner in the firm of Jones, Brothers, & Co., spinners and manufacturers, and agents for the sale of the finest descriptions of Manchester fabrics:—

332. Jones, Brothers, & Co. do business with almost every foreign market and the home trade, and continually send out large quantities of goods to the bleachers, finishers, and dyers.

333. Taking it for granted (see the spinners and manufacturers do not complain), that the Factory Act works well for all interests, I do not know any sufficient reason why the same principle should not regulate the hours of labour, in bleach, finish, and dye works, reducing the first year, 6 to 8; second, 6 to 7; third, 6 to 6. I think the change would

be attended with advantage to the masters and the operatives, and to all other parties concerned.

334. The masters would be better able to keep their eyes upon their works, as the work would be done during the day, instead of, as now, the operatives playing often in the day, and then working during the night, for a pushing order; which the manufacturer or merchant would give more time with, if he knew it was required by the bleacher, &c.

335. The work would be better done, and probably with less damaged cloth, and less break-down of machinery, because the operatives would be better able to attend to their work; and there would be less running the steam engine at a great loss, for small pushing orders.

336. The supply of work would be more regular; and each bleacher would probably do as large a business, with a given quantity of machinery, &c., under a decreased number of hours, and, as they now do, working all hours of the night occasionally.

337. It may often happen, that a certain bleacher, &c., may lose all or part of an order, because he could not work above a certain number of hours, but another bleacher, &c., would get what he could not do, and *vice versa*; the bleaching would be done by some one in this country.

338. Supposing that all the bleachers, &c., could not do the whole of an order by the time wanted, which is almost supposing an impossibility, and that all or part of the order was sent in consequence grey, it does not follow that so much bleaching, &c., would be lost to this country; because if Calcutta, or any other place, wants white cloth, the merchants there will soon be aware of it, and send positive orders for white cloth to Manchester. Buyers would soon find out that, to ensure their orders being bleached, &c., in time, they must give them out at once, instead of holding them till the last moment. It frequently happens that, for various reasons, they defer giving their orders out till the last moment, when everybody must be pushed to get them ready.

339. I think it is very doubtful, if it would require the merchant in Calcutta to send his orders a day earlier, as much time is lost by the buyers in England watching the grey cloth markets, to catch the most favourable time for buying, knowing that the bleachers, &c., will make a great push, and work night and day, rather than lose an order or any part of an order.

340. Assuming that it would advance the price of bleaching to 10 per cent, the average value of a piece of unbleached cloth taken at 6s. 6d., and bleaching 8s., makes 7s. 3d.; 10 per cent. on the bleaching is 1d., say 7s. 4d. The difference between 7s. 3d. and 7s. 4d. might prevent the sale of one particular lot, but it would not prevent the market they were intended for from taking the goods afterwards, if there was a legitimate demand for them.

341. Probably, the same merchant might not send the order, or the same manufacturer or agent here might not receive the order, but it would come to Manchester nevertheless.

342. I do not believe it will have the effect of raising the price of bleaching, &c., as the daily improvements in machinery, &c., for bleaching, &c., tend to reduce the cost, and would thereby neutralize any increased cost occasioned by a reduced number of hours.

343. The argument that one bleacher, &c., cannot do the class of work which another does, is good to the extent of probably about one-tenth of the general work, and to such extent is in favour of shorter hours, as buyers must give him his own time, thereby keeping his works more regularly employed, as no one else can do his style of work; this is exactly what each bleacher should aim at, excellence or peculiarity of work, and so to command regular and steady employment.

344. The Irish finish is a peculiar one, and I think would not replace English finishes, in the event of longer time being required under a restricted number of hours.

345. It would lead to the carters, who come from the works to Manchester and back, not being detained so late at night in Manchester, if bleachers would not receive and deliver work so late from and to the warehouses; and to much of the work which is now done in Manchester warehouses and counting-houses being done in the morning instead of at night.

346. Women and children working as under the Factory Bill would have the effect, by example, of reducing the hours of working for the men, as it might be found unprofitable to work the men alone.

347. The servants of bleachers, such as managers, clerks, &c., &c., who are paid by the year, month, or week, would be able to apply to the business with more energy as the irregular hours were curtailed.

348. This country being the centre of all kinds of manufacturing, bleaching, finishing, and dyeing, &c., has advantages over other countries in the shape of varieties of manufacture, bleach, &c., which would place it on a par with foreign nations, if they could bleach, &c., at half the price charged by the bleachers of this country.

349. [Mr. HENRY, one of the principal merchants, to whom I was referred by many of the leading bleachers for his opinion upon this subject, declined giving it.]

350. [Mr. KIRKSHAW, M.P. (of the firm of Kirkshaw, Lee, & Co.), to whom I was also referred by the same parties, expressed himself generally adverse to legislative restrictions on labour, and as much impressed with the inconvenience likely to arise to trade from

the one under consideration. Mr. Kershaw, at the same time, afforded me an opportunity of learning the opinion of Mr. Berry, who has the principal charge of the branch of business of that firm which has reference to the bleachers, dyers, &c. Mr. Berry was unwilling to make any detailed statement, but, having read the preceding evidence of Mr. Scott, expressed generally his impression that a limitation of the hours of work for the females and boys in those works would make no material difference.]

331. Mr. BARBOUR and Mr. FLEMING, Commission Merchants, Manchester.—We think that no one has a right to say that his work must go on for the same number of hours, if, by so doing, he injures the health of the females and boys in his employ.

332. We do not think the merchants, as a body, would be affected, or would raise any objection to legislative restriction of the hours of work for females and boys in bleach-works, even if it had the effect of limiting the quantity of work done within a certain time.

333. These "pushes" might, we think, in many cases, be avoided by better management. They are not desirable for any one. If the shipper would give his order earlier, it would save much extra trouble to every one. If it is put off to the last, the hurry and disarrangement goes through every class of persons through whose hands the goods have to pass. Ships are advertised to sail many days beforehand; and if all bleachers were, under any law, put upon the same footing, it would be all the same in the end. The orders would be given in reference to the altered circumstances. If what would be got now in eight days, could not under an altered state of the law be got under 10 days, orders would be given 10 days beforehand instead of eight. If two merchants were pressing a particular bleacher for goods, which now the second would get in 16 days,—under a restrictive law, such as the above, he would get them in 20 days; and so on.

334. What the effect of this would be upon the bleachers, is a question for them, not for us. In goods destined for long voyages, as for China, India, South America, and Australia, they would to us be a matter of little importance. We have orders for particular goods, and we must wait till we can get them.

335. Goods bleached and finished in half the usual time are apt to suffer injury by mildew, and we may be subject to heavy losses in consequence.

336. Mr. KLING (of the firm of Reus & Kling).—We are largely engaged as export merchants for cotton and other goods, and have frequent occasion to execute orders for Germany, the Mediterranean, the Levant, &c.

337. It might sometimes occur, if an Act were to pass limiting the labour of females and boys, that we should be subject to inconvenience and loss by not being able to execute an order or a portion of an order for bleached and finished goods for those markets within a given time; but as regards the continental trade, from that the communication is so frequent that, generally speaking, goods that might be too late for one steamer would go very soon after by another. Also as respects the Levant, &c., the general tendency of trade is that the supplies for those markets are being gradually more extended over the whole year. My impression is, that the inconvenience would be more felt in the case of sudden orders to be executed for the more distant markets, as that of China and India, towards the end of the shipping season; and it might be very inconvenient for a shipper not to be able to send off a large quantity of goods by a certain ship, to do which he must get them bleached and finished in a very short time.

338. We prefer that the bleacher should take a reasonable time to bleach and finish goods that we send him, as they are likely to be better done. For some qualities we are obliged to go to a particular bleacher, who has his own stamps, and who finishes in a particular way that suits us best. But for the more ordinary kinds of goods, which constitute the great mass of the trade, we do not feel ourselves tied to any particular bleacher, but could get a portion of the order executed by another, if the one we usually employ should not be able to return the cloth as soon as we should wish.

339. If an Act were to pass placing the labour of females and boys under restriction, and therefore preventing our getting goods through the bleachers' hands quite as soon as we have been hitherto accustomed to do, we should all be in the same boat, it would be a matter of little importance to us.

340. Mr. A. S. THORNTON (Messrs. Thornton, Firth, & Co.).—We have large dealings with the United States, &c., and transmit to that market large quantities of cotton goods. The bleacher is in a very different condition from that of the factories, because he is not a maker of cloth, but he bleaches, dyes, and finishes cloth for the manufacturer or merchant, as it is sent to him. Sometimes an enormous quantity of cloth is sent to them at the same time; at others, their works will not be half employed. This is regulated by the foreign demand.

341. Sometimes we wish to have fine goods back in eight days and we get them; if then they are full of work (it may be for two months), we get a portion of them as we can. These are fine goods, which one bleacher has a faculty of preparing in a particular way for the market which we supply. Common shirtings do not require so much art, and there are many bleachers whom we could employ for these; so that as regards these we are not tied to any one bleacher, though we may prefer some to others. Sometimes we have to stamp our loth ourselves; for the fine goods, we may be sending cloth to the bleacher we prefer, at

the same time that another merchant is wanting to have fine cloth of a similar description from him; but for common cloths, we may have a score of bleachers whom we can go to. We keep blocks for stamping the common cloth, so that if we get bleached cloth from a different bleacher from the one whom we usually employ, and who has our blocks, we can put the marks on ourselves. The tickets and marks for the fine cloth (jacquets, &c.) are put on better by a bleacher.

362. The finer qualities of cotton cloth are chiefly bleached and finished by two bleachers (Mr. Ainsworth and Mr. _____), who probably bleach and finish as much of this description of goods as the whole of the rest of the trade put together.

363. We have been obliged to wait as long as three months for an order to be executed of our particular finish or mark, which we can only get, or which we prefer to get, from one bleacher; no one else can do one description of work for which we have orders but one bleacher.

364. Messrs. SCHUNK & SOUCHAY, Belfield Printing Company, Rochdale.—We have bleach-works near Rochdale for bleaching fancy goods. As these depend upon fashion and season, the demand for them is irregular, and we are often consequently obliged to work overhours.

365. Our goods go to all foreign markets, and are also for the home trade; they are fancy prints. We are liable to have sudden orders which must be executed in a fixed time. Our busiest time for the Australian trade is July, August, and September; the busiest for the spring is November, December, and January. We receive orders from the export merchants of Manchester, London, &c. The busiest time is generally at the beginning of the season. All parties are generally anxious to get their orders executed by a certain day, for certain steamers, for all parts of the world.

366. If an Act were passed limiting the hours for females and boys, and thus possibly for the whole, the delay caused by it would be the same for all; if the delay amounted to one fourth of the present time, an order would take one fourth more time to execute.

367. There would be an incitement to the bleachers to extend their works; if they wished to keep up the present rate of production, they would have to enlarge their works. It might be very inconvenient to the smaller capitalists, who might not be able to do this; but in the end the same amount would be got through as at present, but at a greater cost. The cost of bleaching pieces of 24 yards of the value of 8s. to 6s. is from 2½d. to 3d.; these are the only things we bleach.

368. We employ about 30 people at our bleach-works.

369. ALEXANDER NIGHTINGALE (Mr. Heywood's Bleach-Works, Salford).—I am head maker up. In the making up room there are nine boys from 11 to 14, and three girls and three boys from about 14 to about 17. The hours of work are 16 or 17 per day, and have been for the last three or four months. The boys and girls are always very tired, and there are nearly always one or two of them off sick from working so long; they often complain of their shoulders aching from lifting the cloth, and very often have sore feet; they would all like to have the short time Bill, although they would earn less, because they would have less labour and more rest. I have heard many of these little lads complain of not having an opportunity of going to a night school, and the girls the same. For a month or six weeks in the year we may not have work for half the day; the rest of the year we are working long hours, sometimes 12 and 14, sometimes 16, 17, and 18.

370. There is nothing in this department to prevent our stopping at any hour, and finishing the work on Monday the next day.

371. They could also stop at any moment in the department before them (the calendaring or rolling), also in the drying; before that is the mangling, when the cloth is in a damp state. We are all anxious to get the short time Bill this year, as soon as Parliament can pass it. We hope that we shall earn as much as we now do the year round, but at all events we would like to have the Bill; though there may be a risk of our not earning so much, we shall at all events be better in health. I was ill myself fourteen weeks once, in consequence of the work. I have been at this work seven or eight years. The lads very often miss school on a Sunday morning because they are too tired. I do not think but that all of them would be very glad to go if they could.

372. SARAH STUART.—I have worked at bleach-works three years and a half in the making up room. The work is very hard during the long hours, and my head aches and aches swell sometimes. We should all prefer the short time; it would be more suitable to our health, and we should have time to ourselves in many ways.

373. JANE BELL.—Had been off ill several times. The boys said they felt very tired at the end of the day.

374. RALPH BENTWORTH, bleacher.—I have been working in bleach-works 40 years. There is only one process in which the cloth would spoil if left to stand, that is, when the cloth is in the chemicals; and that is only for the sake of the coloured ends, or headings, the colour of which would be discharged; but by hanging the ends out, there would be no danger, the cloth itself would not take any injury.

375. If we knew that we were obliged to stop at a certain hour, and could not get a kierful out, we should provide for that by hanging the ends out. In all the other processes, wet or dry, the cloth would take no harm for a day or two. It would take no harm if we stopped in the mangling, or stiffening, or drying, or calendering, or making up.

376. DENNIS TAYLOR.—I have been accustomed to bleach-works for 35 years, and am now manager in Mr. Heywood's works. What has been stated by Ralph Entworth is strictly correct.

377. ELLEN TAYLOR.—I worked at Mr. Hollins' bleach-works, Stockport, about four years. During all that time I was at work sixteen hours a day; a fortnight, night work; then a week, day work. The hours were from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and from 10 at night till 2 p.m. When we came off at 2 p.m., we used to go on at 10 p.m., and worked till 2 p.m. the next day; so on every alternate week. I used to feel quite fatigued. All the hands used to work in the same way. I left Mr. Hollins' six years since. I was then about 22 years old. There were plenty that had swelled ankles and were ill.

378. I worked after that for Mr. Holmes, bleach-works at Douglas-green. The hours there used to be longer, often 17 and 18 hours. We have often gone to sleep on the tables, or with our heads on the wet cloth, or anywhere where we could sit still. There were a good many girls and boys working the same number of hours.

379. We might not earn so much if we had a short time Bill, but we should not have to spend so much in expensive food. Our appetite gets so that we cannot eat common things, and we have no time for anything.

380. JOHN KNOWLES.—I am going on eleven years. I have been at work here in the bleach-croft since Reedes Wakes (last autumn). I come at 5 most times, and we begin at 6. I work till 8 and 9, and sometimes 11. It is not often that I can get to sit down a bit, except at meal times. When night comes I am very sleepy and tired. [His father works in the same set.]

381. Mr. W. WILLOCK (Messrs. Wilcock & Evans, Printers, Dyers, and Finishers, Broughton Print Works, Manchester).—We employ about 120 men, women, and boys; of these, only three are women, and about 16 boys. Of the boys, about half a dozen may be from 12 to 14. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6; but we have occasion frequently to work longer hours, and sometimes all night. When the latter is the case, we work by relays, and employ no boys or females. When we work as late as 10 and 12, we keep the younger one night up to those hours, and the next night we send that batch home at 8, so that they do not have two nights following of these long hours. These long continued hours of work arise sometimes from a pressure in our own business, sometimes from being tied in executing shipping orders by a certain day.

382. These extra hours seldom last more than a month at a time; but occur frequently throughout the year.

383. My opinion is, that if an Act were to be passed limiting the hours of work for boys from 6 to 6, we should substitute for them the lads above 18. Our younger boys are employed in very simple kinds of labour, such as folding the cloth, &c., or in keeping the cloth from creasing before it passes under the rollers.

384. Mr. JOHN WORRELL (Messrs. James and John Worrell, Salford).—I am managing partner of these fusian dyeing and finishing works. I have been engaged in it about 20 years. My opinion is, that it would be a great benefit to the trade, both to the men and the masters, if we were all compelled by law to stop working at 6 o'clock from 6 in the morning. As it is, our general hours are from 6 to 6. We sometimes work overtime, but when that is the case we have never more than one half of our workmen and machinery going, often one third; and the engines are running the whole of that time for only one half or one third the number of men. We cannot refuse the merchants at present to execute orders which oblige us to work overtime, but we should be very glad to be able to do so if the law compelled us.

385. We employ about 350 men and boys; of these, about 120 are boys between 12 and 18.

386. With a small additional outlay we could put up machinery enough to enable us to do within the 12 hours any work which we now do in overtime.

387. We should have to take on some extra boys for that extra machinery when they were wanted.

388. If we did not put up extra machinery, others probably would. If we were forced to stop at 6 and discharge the boys at that hour, we might take on men instead; because the proportion of wages paid to boys in the department where they are chiefly used is small compared with the entire cost of finishing. They are used chiefly in the dressing and finishing. We employ very few lads under 18 in the dyeing, the goods being too heavy for them.

389. We stop on Saturdays at 1 o'clock. We make 61 hours to the week. We introduced this plan about nine months ago. We thought before we tried that it could not be done, that it would interfere so much with our business. The half holiday on Saturday refreshes our men so, enabling many of them to get into the country, that they come to work on Monday morning much the better for it.

390. In the same manner there is no real difficulty in shortening the hours by law from 6 to 6, the only difficulty is in the apprehension of it. My opinion is, that, if we were all told we must do it, it would be done.

391. Nearly all the other works in our business (about 18 works, all near Manchester, and employing on an average about 200 men and boys each) work about the same number of hours as we do, 61 hours to the week.

392. JOHN BELL (Messrs. Dewhurst & Co., Broughton Dye and Bleach-Works, Salford).—I am manager for Messrs. Dewhurst of the bleaching and dyeing department, employing about 190 men, boys, and females, and 100 in the finishing department. We dye fastians, shirtings, and plain calico. For several years it has been the habit at these works to begin work at 6 a.m. and leave off at 6 p.m., with the exception of about two months and a half in the year, for a month or two at a stretch, just at one particular season, when our hours are from 6 to 8, with half an hour for breakfast, one hour for dinner, and a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes for tea.

393. It is found by long experience at these works that it is not desirable to work at any time later than half-past 8, as the long hours are detrimental to the health of the people, and do not tend to the profit of the employer. If they work longer at night and become fatigued, they cannot attend to their work the next day with the ability that they ought to do. The two seasons I allude to are spring and autumn; for fancy goods in spring, and heavy fastians and cloth in autumn. Some are for the home, others for the foreign markets. The foreign market is the one which occasions us most overtime by a good deal, being tied to time as to shipments. If work is absolutely required within a specified time for a certain ship, we often manage to put aside other goods that are not so urgent, which enables us to execute the order. This is a matter of management which generally speaking is not difficult. We have regular customers who come to us for a certain finish; this applies to both kinds of goods, chiefly to the fancy goods for shipping; and we accommodate these parties by getting their orders round. We have their stamps and marks which we put on here, and which require our particular attention and care.

394. We insist upon all our hands, bleachers, dyers, and finishers, coming punctually at the hour appointed, and find no difficulty in any of the parties being here, with the exception of a few drunkards, who are our greatest evil. While at work, all the hands go on without any interruptions except for meals, during the whole day. On Saturdays we leave off at 4, so that we actually work by our own regulations precisely the same number of hours as the factories. This has been going on since the factory regulation commenced in 1846 or 1847. This plan is much more profitable than if we went on irregularly, or worked more hours.

395. The cloth goes through the dyeing department all day long, to the stove. That which is finished at 6 p.m. is put at the stove immediately after, and the stoves have done half an hour afterwards. The cloth is left in the stove all night. The stoves come a little before 6 to have the stove ready for the finishing department; a quarter of an hour is quite sufficient. No boys or girls are employed in the taking down of the cloth in the morning; and only one boy at each stove, to pull out the ends of the cloth. We have two stoves. These stove-boys are wanted at 6 in the morning, so that in fact these two boys work 63 hours in the week.

396. If an Act were to pass limiting the hours from 6 to 6, it would require a little more thought from the manager to see how he could arrange in a matter such as this. These boys might not come till half-past 6, so as not to work more than the 60 hours in the entire week.

397. I think there ought to be some sort of elasticity in the regulations of the Act, because it would not do to stop the adult labourers, such as the dyers, in this case, for want of boys to pull out the pieces in the drying place. But if lads over the age of 16 or 18 were employed to do this instead of young boys, the difference in wages would be but a trifle for them, as we have only two so employed; or an old man might do it. [The man who hangs the last batch comes down to straighten out the ends after.—J. WARRING.]

398. In the making up room we have a good number of young men, who make up the goods just as neatly as women could do.

399. Mr. CHARLTON, Blackfriars, Manchester.—We are calenderers, finishers, and packers of cotton and other goods. We employ about 130 to 150 men and boys. Our hours are from 8 to 8 with half a holiday on Saturday. There are about 12 other firms of calenderers and finishers in Manchester, all employing fewer people than ourselves. Their hours vary, but not much, seldom exceeding 60 hours a week, except when occasionally working overtime. Our habit is not to extend the overtime beyond a couple of hours, as we find that the workpeople are tired, and not able to do as much the next day. We work overtime when a vessel is wanted to be got off by a certain day. The merchants send us their goods to be prepared for that vessel.

400. If the proposed legislation were to be applied to us, it ought, in justice, to be applied to all merchants and packers. There are many of both in the same buildings as ourselves, and their hours are pretty much the same as ours. There are about 30 to 40 packers, who are not finishers employing about 20 men and boys, on an average.*

* Packers who are not finishers also do not employ steam machinery in any sense that would bring them under the regulations of the proposed Bill.

401. It is not the custom to employ females in these branches of business.
402. We make up all kinds of fine goods, muslins, and silks; and we find that young ladies make them up as neatly as females. They require, however, somewhat higher wages. We do not like females to be mixed up in our different rooms with the men.
403. We stop an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea.
404. We can only compete with the great mercantile houses who finish and pack (especially the latter), by being able to work the same number of hours as they do.
405. It is only lately that those great mercantile houses have commenced finishing. Before that, the trade was in the hands of the smaller capitalists. They have immense establishments, with ample warehouse room, where some of them keep vast stocks of goods. Those in our branch of the trade keep no stock of goods; we only finish and pack what is sent to us.

406. [The following witnesses, marked by numbers, are very respectable workmen belonging to calendering, and finishing, and fustian dye-works in Manchester and Salford; but they all expressed a wish that their names should not be given, as they were all apprehensive that they would be discharged by their masters if they were known to have been examined by me, and given evidence favourable to the object they seek to attain. I should not have inserted it were it not in entire accordance with that of all the other workpeople examined. They came to me of their own accord and tendered their evidence.] [Seven out of the ten have since allowed me to insert their names]

407. No. 1. THOMAS BRACKIN—I work for ———, calenderer and finisher, Manchester, employing about 100 hands. I went to work in 1826. I am on the committee of the Manchester Association for obtaining the short time Bill to be applied to the calenderers and makers up of cotton goods generally. We have about 20 on the committee.

408. We work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; have an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea, and leave off at 4 on Saturdays; with 20 minutes for dinner. These are our regular hours. The list I give you shows the overhours worked from July 29 to October 14. During that time nearly all the other hands worked longer hours than that. There are between 40 and 50 boys under 18, and about 30 men; no females. We work in some weeks till 12 o'clock at night for five days together, and till 8 o'clock on Saturdays. During that time, we have had as many as five in a week sick from the over fatigue. The boys often ask to be allowed to go home earlier.

409. We are paid weekly wages, and yet we often have little to do in the morning part of the day, and are oppressed with the quantity of work in the afternoon up to midnight. It would be much better for the master, as well as for ourselves, if we began at 6 and stopped at 6. The merchants would soon adapt themselves to the alteration, just as they have with regard to the Manchester half-holiday; and also to another alteration, which was this: The carts of the Hull carriers used about six months ago to draw off from the warehouses at 10, in order to get the goods upon the railway to go by that night's train. The railway company altered the hours of the luggage train, and now all those carriers leave the warehouses at 8. The same thing would have been done if the railway company had said that the carriers must draw off at 6, and bring their goods so much earlier. This shows that, if the law were to say what the railway people said, the thing would be done at once.

410. Those very long hours do not come so often with us as they formerly did, but we are always liable to them; and when they do come they are very oppressive and injurious, especially to the boys and young men.

411. The irregularity of the hours makes it very difficult for the boys and young men to get any opportunity of improving themselves in the evening. What happened to me happened to my knowledge, to plenty of others. When I was 21, I wanted to learn arithmetic and writing, and took out a ticket from the Manchester Mechanics Institute, to attend for arithmetic on Wednesday evenings, and for writing on Saturday evenings. I paid my 5s, and found I could only go one night during the quarter to the arithmetic class. After that, I paid 6d. per week for three nights a week to a night school. I had to pay on the Monday night, and perhaps could not go again that week. I joined the reading room, King Street, Salford, myself, with four other young men and one boy, of the same works, but, with the exception of Saturday night, we could go there so very seldom that we gave it up; for when we might have gone, we were so tired that we were glad to go home and rest. All the schools and institutions of education and improvement are calculated, as to their hours, for workpeople who leave off at 6; so that we who work always till 8, and often much later (it was 9 and 10 the days you were at our works), have very little chance of profiting by them.

—412. No. 2. HENRY BLORE—I have been from 18 to 20 years employed at calendering and making up. The above evidence of the preceding witness is in every respect just what I am prepared to say from my own experience. There is no doubt that all the men in the trade would be very glad if this Bill were to be passed into a law.

413. No. 3. STEWART FLETCHER—I have worked upwards of 16 years at calendering and finishing. I have worked for Mr. ——— about 16 months at his calico works. He employs about 70 men and boys, and a few females; about 20 boys. We generally commence at 6, and the day is up at 6 o'clock at night, and the rest is overtime. We are making

full time now, but we are considered very slack. At first, when I commenced working here, the calenderers worked till 11 o'clock, a regular thing, for many a month. The makers-up worked till half past 8. There were busier times than that, when the calenderers worked all night; that is, those that commenced at 10 o'clock at night worked till 2 the next day. There were only two or three boys among them. The makers-up were making the same hours, in two sets also, the night set working the same hours as the calenderers; there were about 6 or 8 boys in that room. The men makers-up were at those times often working from 6 a.m. till 11 p.m., and sometimes 12. At another place, when I worked long hours like these, I was ill a month from it. Sometimes there will be two or three at once off ill from the fatigue. At another master's, when I was with him two years ago, we worked very much the same hours, though I have worked there all night many a night. I often used to feel great fatigue, and I have known as many as ten off from it; and I remember once falling asleep on my legs as I was going home, and awakened with stumbling off the footpath. I have worked at four different places, seven years at one; and I can speak for all that have any reason about them, that they would be glad for the sake of their own boys that they should not be obliged to work in that way.

414. No. 4. CHARLES BLEBBERWAKE.—I have been a maker-up in one of the calendering, finishing, and making-up establishments of Manchester for 12 years. I am very desirous that the hours of labour for boys and women should be restricted to 10½, and I believe that that is the general feeling in the trade. I shall be 23 this spring; I was 11 years old when I began to work at the making-up. There were about 20 boys at the hooking, &c., at the same time as myself. Some were strong, and some were less so: they vary very much in strength. All the hookers had to do a certain quantity of work to every hour, from 6 a.m. to 7 in the evening; those were the hours of the day work; after that we were paid overhours. In the summer we were busiest, and are always so now. During these busy seasons we work on till 8, 9, 10, up to 12. It falls very hard upon the weaker boys. I have often seen them sleeping, on their legs, beside their hooks, and I have done so often myself. The weaker boys suffer in their feet, and their whole frame suffers. I have known at least eight in the last 12 years who have fallen into consumption, and died. The friction of the piece, in hooking, cuts their fingers and makes them very sore, their skins being soft. "Whose finger is bleeding?" is not an uncommon exclamation, as the blood stains the pieces; they then have to have their fingers tied up. In my place there has never been a female employed. The making-up is all done by men. Some kinds of goods are too heavy for them. Fine goods can be made up, and are made up, just as neatly by men as by women. We ornament and tie with silk ribbon, and label, the very finest muslins, and all sorts of fancy goods that are done in the trade.

415. I prefer that my name should not be mentioned, or the firm I work for, as I should be apprehensive that they would discharge me, and I should be sorry to expose myself to the risk.

416. No. 5.—I work for Messrs. ———, fustian dye works, Manchester. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6, and we very seldom make overtime. Mr. ——— does not wish us to work overtime. He employs about 70 to 80 men, and about 24 boys—no females. I have been upwards of 30 years a dyer. I have worked at establishments where they have worked from 4 a.m. till 10 at night for many nights together, but that is not very frequent now in the dye trade, though there are still masters who keep the work on till 8 and 10 o'clock. The Bill for shortening the hours for boys and females has been talked of many years by the men, and I think they would, as a general thing, be all very glad if it passed, as it would cause the work to be more regular.

417. I would rather be excused from having my name mentioned, as it might do me harm with my master.

418. No. 6.—I have worked eight years with my present master, in a fustian dyeing business. I am well acquainted with all the fustian dye works about Manchester and Salford. Out of the last, ten masters make very little overtime with the men, their hours being from 6 to 6. The three or four others do make overtime with the men occasionally, not very often above two or three months in summer. Ten or twelve years ago there used to be a great deal of overtime at all these works, but it got a deal more regular after the Factory Act passed. The men made a rule among themselves, which led to overtime being done away with; and we do quite as much work now as we did before. Some of the masters enlarged their works, and took on more men, when the hours were reduced. The masters did not suffer from this, and in a general way are prosperous. It would take no trouble at all to extend the regulation, and make it the law that the boys and females should only work from 6 to 6; for the work could be stopped at any moment without taking any harm.

419. In all these works, the boys in the fustian dressing room are more subject to making overtime than the dyers; they have to prepare the work for the dyers, and the dyers can get on with their part quicker than the boys. It happens very often through all the year, in dressing departments, that the boys work from 6 to 8, 9, and 10, and even 12. It is a bad atmosphere to be in so long, full of dust and lint, from the fustian cutting. By putting down a trifle more machinery, the masters might prevent the boys working overtime; and, even without adding to the machinery, it might be avoided by keeping more cloth dressed ready for the dyers, as there are often times when it might be done. A very little management would arrange all that.

420. No. 7, GEORGE SMITH; No. 8, DAVID JOYNSON; No. 9.—We work at the calendaring and making up department of a large firm in Manchester, and have worked from eighteen months to six years there. Our hour in the summer months are often very long, sometimes we begin (say) Wednesday morning at 6, and work till Thursday night at 8; and once until 10. For nine or ten months in the year we begin at 6, and seldom leave off before 9 and 10. There are 60 men and 28 boys, all of whom work the same number of hours. We are all most anxiously for the Bill; the boys are subscribing a halfpenny a week, and the men 2d. and 3d., to the committee of the operatives, who are endeavouring to promote the Bill.

421. No. 10. JAMES DODD (aged 34).—States that “three years ago we made 96 overhours in one fortnight; 64 hours a week being our regular hours; making 64 + 65 + 96 = 225 hours in a fortnight. I felt very poorly after that.”

422. [All the above witnesses mentioned many cases within their own knowledge, of boys and young men having been ill and off work, and who have died, from the long hours of work.]

423. JOHN WAREING. [For previous evidence, see p. 2.].—I have seen the evidence given by some of the masters and the merchants, and I wish to make some observations upon it. There is no necessity, under proper management, for any one set in bleach-works to wait for another. It can very seldom happen, that a bleach-works is quite bare of cloth; there is generally a stock in the grey room, when the makers go on working; and they can work a deal faster than the dressers can get through with it, so that the dressers have never any occasion to wait.

424. In the case of a master wishing to make a little overtime after the Act passed, he might, in the making up room, send away all the females and boys under 18 at 6 o'clock, and if there were (say) four men makers up, two of those might go on working the cloth instead of the females and boys, and the other two might make up. Men very often both work and make up, and can do the latter as neatly as the women.

425. The master might also, on such occasions, employ an additional hand or two in hooking, so the men might make an hour or two overtime in making up, when there was a “push.”

426. With shorter hours the finishers and others would get as much the year round, because these busy workings cause a deal of slack workings.

427. I do not think that, as a general rule, the merchants make much ceremony about changing their bleachers, even for the finer sorts. Some few of the bleachers have got a name for particular finishes, and the merchants may be tied to them for those; but as to the great mass of the trade, shirtings, jaconets, fancy goods, beetle-cloth, twills, and strong calicoes, the finishes for these can be done equally well at all places; and if one bleacher will do it a trifle cheaper than another, the merchants will go to that bleacher.

428. One of the great reasons of the long hours in the finishing departments is, that the bleaching machinery has been improved faster than the finishing, so that as much cloth can be bleached in 10 hours as it would take 16 to finish. But many bleachers have already improved their finishing machinery, and those that have not might get through the finishing in 10 hours if they would take on more hands or improve their machinery.

429. It requires only a very short time to make a man a good workman in the bleaching business. One of the bleaching masters told me last week, that he could take a man from a stone-quarry, or a carter, or from any other common labour, and make him a good bleacher or finisher in a few days' time. It is only the making up that requires a little teaching and practice. The lads in the dye-works also have very simple things to do, and can be soon learnt.

430. When the people work long hours, and so leave off late at night, they come late the next day, and seldom do much before 7 or 8, or even 9 in the morning; so that if an order were wanted quick for shipment it could be got round quite as soon by working from 6 to 6, because the people would work cheerfully and regularly all the working hours.

431. Sometimes now, in the very slack periods, the hands leave the masters; and then, when the “pushes” come again, they have difficulty in getting hands. It would be better for both parties if the work went on regularly.

432. We do not think the masters would discharge the females or boys if the Bill were to pass; they would not like to pay men 16s. or 18s. a week, when they can get females or boys for 7s. or 8s. It was just what the factory masters said; they said if the Factory Bill passed they should discharge all their boys and women.

433. We are not afraid of foreign competition; there is no danger of our losing any part of the trade for such a restriction of hours as we propose. We have great advantages here over the foreigner. First, machinery is cheaper, because made close by. Then, coals are much cheaper, and the large bleach and dye-works use 50 tons a day, some considerably more, costing about 3s. a ton at the pit's mouth, and 2½d., 3d., 6d., up to 1s., per ton for delivery; but generally some of the largest masters raise their own coal. Then, we have plenty of water-power, and water for the bleaching purposes. Then, we have got all the skill that is wanted in the trade. Then, we are close to the great markets, with conveyance by railways to nearly every bleach-works, and so from them back to Manchester and Liverpool.

and that in a few hours, and in a day's time to London if they are wanted there. We think that the great bleachers are much more afraid of competition at home from the smaller bleachers, than from abroad.

434. Two or three years ago great improvements were introduced into the bleaching machinery, so that orders which before took a week, can now be got through, at a "push," in three or four days, according to the weight of the cloth per piece. If, therefore, an order were to come to the merchant, a repetition of a former order, to be executed (say) in four days, or omitted altogether, the bleacher would have to put aside some work which was not pressing, and turn all his machinery and hands to that; and he can now do it in four days, whereas two or three years ago it would have taken him six. So that the merchants in the foreign market, who know this, now want their orders executed in four days, instead of six, before these improvements. No order would be lost, by the limitation of hours; it could be executed by steady work between 6 and 6.

435. If Mr. Harcourt's plan, or anything like it, were to be adopted, of allowing work to be done by females and boys between half-past 3 and half-past 6, but only 60 hours a week, the females and boys might have done their 60 hours, in less than five days. That would be no benefit to the masters, because the machinery would be standing, and the drags losing their strength, the rest of the time.

436. The long hours at the bleaching at Mr. Harcourt's are occasioned by his not having the new machinery; and all his bleaching is done by adults, who would not be interfered with by the Bill.

437. The bulk of the bleaching done in Ireland of cloth sent from here, is of a kind not much done here. It is of cotton cloth bleached and finished in Ireland, and stamped as if it were linen; and going from Ireland, it is taken without a doubt to be Irish linen. It has been much spoken about in the trade that this kind of work has done it much injury.

438. The Table of the average working hours of a large bleaching, finishing, and dyeing work the year through, (see Appendix C.) shows just what we say, namely, that, take the year through, all the work that is now done can be done within the time we want, namely, 10½ working hours, and the Saturday a half holiday, like the factories.

439. Referring to what is said by Mr. Bridson (page 22) that to meet a 10½ hours Bill he would have to employ 16 per cent. more capital, he and several others have already done so, and much more. Within the last two years Mr. Bridson has put up a large building for calendering, mangleing, and drying, and improved other parts of his works as well. Mr. Slater, Mr. Cross, Mr. Blair, Mr. Eden, who are all principal bleachers, have laid out large sums in improved machinery and additional buildings, all within the last two or three years, and are quite prepared for a 10½ hours Bill.

440. The dyers about Bolton, and also about Manchester, as it is, generally work from 6 to 6; about Manchester, they have a half holiday on Saturday; at Bolton, they leave off at 5 on Saturdays.

441. If, in consequence of the Bill passing, some boys and females were to be discharged, the boys would have no difficulty in getting situations; boys are much called for in all these manufacturing districts. Females are very much wanted too; even in the worst times as their labour is cheap it is much wanted.

442. However many you were to examine, through the bleaching and finishing, and the dye works, it would only be a repetition of what has been stated by the witnesses already examined; they all tell one tale; the masters say they would be a little inconvenienced, and the operatives state that they would be very much benefited.

443. Mr. Dorrington (Evidence, p. 35) refers to the present great demand for a certain low class of cloths for the Levant, in consequence of the war; and he fears that, if we had a 10½ hours Bill, a portion of the present demands would not be executed, and would be lost to this country. This might be so for a short time; but if the demand continued, other bleachers would soon know it, and turn their minds to producing the same kind of finish that those two or three now do with that class of goods. There is no likelihood, even if any part of such cloth went out grey, that it would be bleached and finished in the Levant, as it would take a month to bleach, and could not be finished without calendering machinery, &c., which they have not got, and which would be expensive for them. If it is possible for two or three bleachers to finish in a particular way suitable to the Levant market, it is surely possible for more; and would surely be done if the demand, instead of being only brought on by the war, became permanent.

444. Also, if the rebellion in China were suddenly to cease, and the demand for goods for that market, which has been slack, were to rise up again, and seem likely to be permanent, the bleachers, &c., would extend their machinery to meet it, supposing they could not do so after having the hours for females and boys limited by Act of Parliament. The bleachers should not forget that a deal of their expenses would be curtailed under a 10 hours Bill, by less drags being necessary; and their machinery would be running always to advantage, instead of now running sometimes many hours for a few hands, and gas burning also; and all the clerks and servants, including managers, better able to attend to their work than they are now.

445. As for orders being lost to the Peru or any other market, as Mr. Dorrington fears, by reason of an order not being able to be executed for a certain ship, we do not fear that any such markets would be lost; for if the trade were likely to continue from there being a

regular demand, they would get the goods first or last. That argument is the same as this: If a boy was selling oranges in a street in Manchester, and was away when a man went by who wanted to buy some, it does not follow that fewer oranges would be sold; the man who wanted some would find them at the corner of some other street. So it would be with such a market as Peru, mentioned by Mr. Dorrington. Other merchants might have received orders to send out goods to that market, and would get them from some other bleacher, though not the one employed by Mr. Dorrington; and the supplying of them would not be lost to England.

446. We do not think that the bleach-masters are so much at the mercy of the foreign markets as they themselves believe. They have much more to encounter from their competition with each other. We should not listen to any proposition for a compromise of what we are asking for, as we are asking for nothing out of reason. If there were to be a power of extending the hours beyond 6 o'clock, it would be nearly always acted upon, and we do not see why we should be required to work longer hours than other trades. Many trades regulate themselves to 10 working hours a day, such as the joiners, mechanics, smiths, engineers, painters, plasterers, masons, watchmakers; in fact, almost all trades; and we should have been the same but for the number of women and children in bleach and dye-works. The masters can, through the parents, compel the females and children to work those extra hours, but they cannot compel the men, where the females and children are not wanted with them. The law is, in reality, required to protect the children and women against their parents, &c.; but it must be borne in mind, that the parents are compelled to send them by their employers, the master bleachers, &c. With these the custom is established of yielding to the masters in our trades; and besides, boys and girls are not required in the others. Nothing but legislative interference can protect the women and children, as has been found in the factories and print-works.

447. ELLEN JACKSON (Messrs. Ridgway's Bleach and Dye Works, Bolton).—I have been at work five years in the pasting department. The hours generally are from 6 a.m. till past 8; and when we are busy, till 9. Sometimes we are off half a day in the week, and sometimes a whole day. I am often very fatigued, and last year I was off six weeks with a low fever brought on from fatigue. I should, indeed, like the hours to be shortened.

448. [ALICE HOWARTH gave the same account of her hours of work in the same room, and said they very seldom left off as early as 6, it was oftener between 7 and 8. Her feet very often get raw.]

449. ANNE CALDWELL (between 16 and 17, very undersized).—Works often till past 6 from 6 a.m. Has sore feet sometimes; her father is working here, and earning about 1*l.* 1*s.* per week the year through. [She looked pale and thin.]

450. MARY ANN ARTHUR (under 13).—Has been at work in the room about a year. [Very thin and pale.] Her father earns 15*s.* a week, and pressed the manager to allow her to work.

451. [The rest of the girls in the room (six) looked strong and healthy; also the nine boys.]

452. The hours generally from 6 to 6, sometimes 6 to 7 and 8. Sometimes they do not come till 7 or 8 in the morning.

453. In the making up room for the fancy department (light muslins, &c.) the hours are from 6, 7, and 8, seldom later than to 6. Two girls about 16 and upwards, and six girls about 13 and 14, all healthy looking. Two females were in the clamping-room (very heated atmosphere), and were succeeded by two others, who worked all night.]

454. Mr. JOHN N. SLATER (of the firm of G. and J. Slater, Bleachers and Finishers, Dunscar).—We pay our bleachers by the day, and they never make ten hours a day, though sometimes a few of them may have to stay later than 6 o'clock, or one or two may come before 6 a.m. and leave off before 6 p.m. The finishers are all on piece-work, and their hours are irregular, beginning from 6 to 7: but when individuals are kept later for some purpose, they come to work later accordingly in the morning. We do not compel them to come punctually, as we get our work done in the time it is wanted. When we are busy, they work sometimes later; but, as a rule, at these works the females and boys are not pushed to get through their work rapidly, they generally take it easily, and are obviously in good health.

455. My experience is, perhaps, as great as any in the trade, as I served my time as a working man. My principal objections to interference by Act of Parliament with the labour of women and children are, that we cannot regulate the quantity of work that we have to do; next, that we wish to have the power of working over hours, especially if anything goes wrong with the machinery, or water runs short; but if we were "to stand over them, we could get the work done in a much shorter time than they now take to do it in."

456. Our people can all read, and all can write more or less. We have a lending library, and the books are much read. We have also a public park, and various amusements are much entered into by our people.

457. MARY ANN SMITH.—Last Saturday it was my birthday. I was 12 years old. I have been working here going on three years; sometimes cutting for the plaiting machine, then hooking, and now doubling and hooking. Most times I begin work at 7 and leave off at 7; that is, when we are slack. When we are busier we begin at 6 and leave off at 7 and 8. In busiest times we begin at 6 and go on till 10, and sometimes 11, as we have for the last week,—perhaps ten days. Monday night I went on till half-past 12; on Saturday we stopped at 5; on Friday night we stopped at half-past 11, we began at 6. I came here two months before races (Whitsuntide races) nearly three years ago. Six times in that time, I have worked from 6 in the morning till half-past 2 the next. Once I worked from 6 one morning till 6 the next morning. My father works in the stove,* in the next room. I have to rub my instep every night before I can get my elogs off. The skin cracks, and I cannot abide sometimes. One of my fingers is gathering flesh being cut by the serge, and the other is running. The last time was last winter. They are worst when I am hooking, and they wear through.

458. ANELLA WOOD (15 next July).—I have been at this work (hooking) about three years. We oftenest begin at 5 or 6 in the morning and oftenest leave off at 11 or 12, except in the slack times; we are not often slack. Sometimes we do not leave off till 3 or 4 in the morning; it was not so very long since. My fingers are often very bad; the cloth wears them through. My feet are sore oftenest in the warm weather.

459. [All in the room work the same number of hours, makers up and stampers; three women, 15 girls from 10 up to 16, and seven men.]

460. [MARY GREENHALGH gave a similar statement to the above; said she had worked last Friday night but one, from 6 a.m. till half-past 2 the next morning; it was a good while since she worked so long before.]

461. MARY ANNE VICKERS.—I am going on 16. I have been employed at this work three years the first Monday in March. My fingers are sore when we are busy, and my feet are sometimes sore; and my ankles are sometimes painful, and they do not swell much only in summer.

462. MARY GREENHALGH (Mr. Whowell's Bleach-Works, Two Brooks, Bury).—We start at half-past 6 a.m. and leave off at 11 at night. This has been going on for two years. On Friday night a set comes on at 10 o'clock and works till Saturday at 5. The set that comes on Saturday morning at 6 works till Saturday night at 12; they start again at 1 o'clock on Sunday night. This has been so for two years, all the time that I have been here. We have in this room nine women and 21 girls, nine of whom are under 13. All these work the same number of hours. All the girls are always complaining of their legs aching and their feet being sore, and some are frequently off from illness; there are always one or two off in consequence of long hours and working at night. I have talked to them many a time about the hours being shortened like the factories. They wish that time would come. They said that, if they did earn less, the money would do them as much good as what they earn now, as it takes so much better meat, and also medicines, to keep them something like up to their work. They would have time also to work for themselves at home, in doing house work and making and mending for ourselves. We have now to pay people for cooking for us, and bringing our meals, all which we could do ourselves with the short time, besides being much more healthy; and even on the Sabbath they lie in bed often till dinner hour, they are so tired after the week's work; so that we have very little time to improve ourselves, either Sunday or week days. The little ones very often fall asleep standing to their work. They fall fast asleep standing before their hooks. I have to keep them awake; and my heart is so sore for them, that I cannot speak to them. I have worked at bleach-works, in the finishing room, twenty years, and it has always been so in all the works where I have been.

463. MARY LAW.—I am going on 13. I have been working here near two years. My feet were always sore in summer, they were blood raw at bottom, and my ankles are swelled with a deal of pain.

464. [All the women and nearly all the girls, who had worked here any time, said they had had swelled ankles and sore feet.]

465. MR. WHOWELL.—Mary Greenhalgh has been off work from time to time, she was three or four days off work.

466. [She stated that she had been off work once from having the quinsy, and once for two days, then one day, and then three days; and the year before about the same.]

467. MR. WHOWELL.—We have from 14 to 20 young girls tambouring (marking figures on muslin). They are sitting down all day, and have no fatigue; they go to their dinner for an hour. They generally come at 7 and 8, and generally give over at 7 or 8.

* Average earnings, per week, 24s., the year through.

468. I started these works about four years since. We go on night and day whenever we have work. It has happened that we have been very slack for a fortnight, and have had nothing to do. We have gone night and day for the last 12 months. I have about 220 hands. Of these, between 30 and 40 are females, and 10 to 20 boys.

469. The first set begins on Monday morning at 2 o'clock a.m. and works till 2 p.m. They are ordered to come at 1, but they come irregularly.

470. We have more than two full sets, but not three sets, so that the 24 hours are divided between rather more than two sets.

471. This applies to all the people employed.

472. The evidence of Mary Greenhalgh has been read to me, and my attention having been called to the statements of all the other girls in the room made to you, I positively contradict it.

473. OLIVER CHAMBERLAIN.—I am book-keeper to Mr. Whowell. [His office is close to the making up room]. The first set in the making up room begins work at 6 a.m., and in a general way they make 15 hours a day. When I leave the office at 8, 9, and 10 o'clock they are still there.

474. Part of the second set will come at 2 o'clock p.m., and they will make about the same equal time as the others. I should say so, but the exact hours they leave off I do not know.

475. MR. WHOWELL.—I should be sorry to make any misrepresentation as to the hours, but I do not look after them myself; I leave it to my manager, who at present is not here. The hours are a matter of arrangement among themselves, and it does not matter to me a halfpenny whether they work short hours or long. If their hours were reduced, we must employ so many more. This is the top and bottom of it.

476. [I have no doubt that Mr. Whowell was not aware, until his attention was called to it as above, of the exact number of hours that his work-people were actually at their work. In several other bleach-works I found the same thing to be the case, the hours being more within the cognizance of the manager.]

477. Mr. Whowell having mentioned to me that he had established a night school, and fitted up a room for Divine Service for the people in his employ, I visited the building with him; and took down upon the spot the following, which is very creditable to the parties concerned.

478. We have a night school for our children, and a Sunday school. The people are healthy; and we are careful to prevent any improprieties going on in the works.

479. I have fitted up a room for an evening and Sunday school, in which also we have Divine Service twice on Sundays, and three times on the last Sunday in the month. The room will hold 100 comfortably, and we have had 140; the general attendance is about that. Sometimes we have a neighbouring clergyman to perform the service, but on other occasions it is performed by Mr. Wallace, one of my clerks, who also superintends the Sunday school. Mr. Wallace also delivers a discourse every Sunday afternoon, and an extra one the last Sunday in the month. Many of the parents of the children come. We have a good supply of books, and we take boys and girls from the alphabet to the Bible. We have a seraphine for aiding the singing. At the night school, the boys come two nights, and the girls two. They learn reading, writing, and cyphering; and some get as far as fractions. [The regulations for the school have been very well drawn up by Mr. Wallace.]

480. MR. SEDDEN, Brightmet Bleach-Works.—I have been engaged in the bleach-trade for a considerable number of years. One of my principal objections to legislation regarding the bleach-works is, that our machinery would be liable to the inspection of persons who do not understand machinery; also of persons locally connected, who might be open, without being conscious of it, to local influence.

481. The inspection of the machinery might be made unobjectionable, if a practical and competent person were called in, from a distance, to judge whether the machinery was dangerous which an inspector represented to be so.

482. I am the more inclined to this opinion now, because of what has been going on lately with regard to the machinery of factories. It is unpleasant to be brought up before the magistrates by the opinion of gentlemen not practically versed in machinery.

483. As regards the limiting the hours of labour for females and boys, our practice always has been not to go on later than 10; we profess to begin at 6; but in cold weather it is difficult to get them at work so early. My opinion is, that by working steadily from 6 to 10 we get through more work than those do who sometimes work their people for 24 hours together for one or two days; they must be soon exhausted, and even with two sets they often work 16 hours each set; half a set working with the previous set.

484. According to the experience of my works, we go on at these hours (from 6 or 7 to 10), sometimes a week only, sometimes a month, sometimes two months; seldom for two months together without intermission; at other times of the year, the work varies from 6 to 6, from 6 to 8, or from 6 to 10.

485. Our meal times are, half-an-hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half-an-hour for tea; but we are not particular to a few minutes, so that we seldom begin work till a quarter-of-an-hour late after each meal.

486. It does not follow that all the girls and boys are going on without interruption the whole day; sometimes they are waiting for the other sets. Supposing the hours were limited, we should be particular not to let them lose time after meal hours, and we should arrange to keep the makers up always going with cloth ready from the sets before them; so that no doubt there would be much more work done per hour.

487. We do not like these sudden orders from manufacturers (which are almost exclusively for the shipping trade), which make us work in fits and starts, and I would much sooner that the trade was more regular. If the hours were to be limited, we might not be able to get through an order in the same time as we do now; but very often these small lots, to be done in a short time, cost us more in extra cost, overtime to the day hands, gas, &c., than we get for the bleaching. We might, if the hours were limited, sometimes lose a portion of an order; we should be cautious in taking cloth that we knew we could not get through, we should only take what we knew we could return in the time specified by the merchant. The other part of the order, or the whole of it, might go to another bleacher. But another time we should come in for the portions of orders that another bleacher could not do. If the hours were to be curtailed, we should all probably be kept more regularly at work; and if the merchant still wanted an order executed, which would oblige us to work unreasonable hours, and employ adult hands, an extra price would be asked.

488. An extra 10 per cent. upon the bleaching, which would be an important rise to us, would be a mere trifle compared with the selling price of the cloth, it might be one per cent. But the price of cloth in the Manchester market varies more than that almost every week; sometimes as much as five per cent., and more than that, when the markets are in an excitable state.

489. I should wish to add that, notwithstanding the occasional long hours, the health of the people (men, boys, and females) employed in bleaching-works is generally good. I must nevertheless admit, that for the young, especially for growing girls, these, at all events, that are not the strongest, such long hours as they occasionally work must be, in many instances, prejudicial. The shorter hours would be better for them if we could have them regular, and also, I think, better for the employers. We should have less wear and tear of machinery while a few hands only were at work.

490. There has been a great improvement in this neighbourhood since I have known it (upwards of 20 years) as respects education and the desire for it, and in the habits of the people, and shorter hours would give them the opportunity of still further improvement; a certain proportion of those now better inclined would take advantage of it, and it would open the way to a still further improvement in these families as they grow up.

491. ELIZABETH EDGE.—I am 14 years of age. I have worked here four years. Three months since I worked two nights and two days. I slept four hours the first morning, and not at all the next night. I worked twice in the finery room, looking, all night long about five months since. I have very often worked till 12. My feet and ankles are often sore. If you could have seen my feet last night, they were swelled all over.

492. MARY BROOKS (12 years old).—Worked "when the skin was off my feet very badly."

493. MARY ROTHWELL (20).—I have been very plagued with my ankles swelling lately.

494. [There are 13 females in this room; all gave a very similar account of themselves, and said they had been long "waiting for" the short hours. On reading over the evidence of the last three witnesses to the following witness, he assented to its correctness.]

495. RICHARD MASSEY.—I am at the head of the finishing department. I have been in this department of these bleach-works 34 years. Our hours here are, for nearly six months during the year, from 15 to 16 hours a day. We are one of the most regular places in the trade. I have under me in this room five men, six boys, and thirteen women and girls. We all very much want the short time Bill passed. They have all paid their 1d. a week to help to get it. Every one says they would like it, though they earned less. They will say the same everywhere. Though some of them look healthy, others do not; and they show the effect of the long hours. I see them go worse by degrees, and look pale and sickly, like some of these. When they cannot stand the work they have to go, and put themselves to something easier. The strong ones stand it for a long time.

496. They must all have an extra meal when they work from 6 to 10. If they have tea at 5, and then go on working from half-past 5 till 10, they must have something before they go to bed. That would be saved by the short time; and you cannot eat the same common food as you can when you work shorter hours. It makes several shillings a week difference to every young girl, and indeed to all of us.

497. My firm opinion is that, if we had the short time Bill, we should get through nearly as much work in the week as we do now with the long hours.

498. [In the clamping (drying) room, which is necessarily very warm, two females work from 6 to 8, and two more succeed them and work all night. One of the former said they required five meals a day.]

499. **Messrs. HOLLINS & Co., Tootal Bridge Bleach-Works, Bolton.**

500. We employ about 80 hands; of these 15 are females, and 16 boys under 18. I have been for 30 years engaged in bleach-works, and for the last four years as manager.

501. Our hours of work for the last twelve months have been from 6 a.m. till about 10 at night, generally for all, large and small; sometimes earlier, especially on Saturdays, when we stop, if possible, at 5. I do not like longer hours, and I think that they are not profitable either to man or master. About 9 o'clock the females and boys begin to show they are not worth much for work. I have not interfered to prohibit the exercise of their free will, or to subscribing, as I believe they all do, to the fund for getting the short time Bill. I think there would be some difficulty in working a ten hours Bill, particularly in such a place as this, because of the heavy machinery. In consequence of the weight of the machinery in all bleach-works, it is liable to break and get out of order, and to cause stoppages of an hour or two a day. The factory machinery, being so much lighter and more accurately made, is not so liable to these accidents. I think if a ten hours Bill passes, we ought to be allowed to make up lost time. If, for instance, we lost five hours in any one day, I should prefer being able to make this up by an hour a day; I think it would be better than being allowed to make it up all in a day, because it might lead to overworking the hands.

502. A ten hours Bill might also be very injurious to small works like this, unless we could extend them sufficiently to make up for the loss of hours. Five or ten per cent. upon a paying price for bleaching, &c., such as we have in good times, might enable us to meet the difficulty.

503. We have no very little girls here; where I worked formerly, I used always to send the little ones home at 8 o'clock. I am very particular in watching to see if the hours of work have a bad effect upon their health; and if it appears to be so, I send them home for a few days. All our young men are very well in health. It is very seldom that any of them are ill. If they should be, they leave work for a little time, and come back to it.

504. **LYDIA NIGHTINGALE.**—Eight years here. Ankles often swelled, and feet often so sore that the skin comes off with my stockings. My sister has been off work many times, ill from the long hours.

505. **ELLEN BRAKE (16).**—I have often been off my work; the doctor said it was from my working such long hours.

506. **SARAH SUTTLE (15).**—Ankles always swelled in summer.

507. **JAMES EDGAR.**—Had been off his work a little before Christmas, for five days, "from the work."

508. **JAMES STREET.**—Off a week since Christmas, "from the hard work."

509. [All the rest, when I asked, gave a similar account of themselves, and they all said they wished for the short time Bill "very much."

510. No young boys in the bleaching department. One only below 14.]

511. **Mr. JOHN WHITEHEAD, Elton and Walmersley, near Bury.**—We bleach, dye, and finish heavy or strong goods. We employ about 300 hands altogether. At Walmersley we have an establishment for yarn-bleaching, where we have about 60 to 70 hands, of whom about 25 to 30 are girls and women, and about twelve boys. Here we have only about ten females, and about 30 to 40 boys. Our hours of work for the bleachers and finishers, from September to March, are from 6 to about half-past 8. This occurs three nights a week generally, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we work from 6 to 6, on Saturdays we stop at 4. Here we work by the day.

512. At Walmersley, the bleachers (men and boys) do not make much above ten hours to the day, and two for meals, i.e., from 6 to 6; the girls, about eleven on an average, from 6 to 7. Some work from 7 a.m. till 8 p.m. This is in making up the yarn. It is very nice easy work for females.

513. We object very much to any limitation of hours for the females or boys, as we think it would be very injurious to us, in consequence of the irregularity of the orders. In the spring and summer months we may not have the hands half employed.

514. In the dyeing department we are at work in busy times generally from 6 to 9. In this department we have about 20 to 30 boys. We might be much inconvenienced by a ten hours Bill being applied to the dye-works, because, if we find that a piece does not come up to pattern, we have to re-dye it, and time is therefore lost. The order could not be executed within the time we had engaged to do it. The goods would have to wait till the next day if we were limited to time. Sometimes, in a case like that, we should have to work till 9 or 10 o'clock to complete them. This is not a very frequent occurrence, but what we are always liable to.

515. I think if the Bill were confined to regulating the hours of females only, it would not, as far as we are concerned, do so much harm; we should substitute boys for them, where it was required. We should have to dismiss only a very few girls.

516. In the making-up department at Walmersley, where we employ most girls, we should have to take on more of them. We have nearly 30 girls in that department. We should only have to substitute boys for the ten girls who now do the stitching. On an average, in our busy time these ten girls are at work only three days in the week for the long hours, i.e., from 6 till half-past 8 or 9. These are governed by the machinery; they stitch the cloth for that, so that as we cannot speed the machinery any faster, we cannot take on more hands there.

517. If we are to have an Act we should better accommodate ourselves to it by coming to the stipulated time gradually; as, for example, the first year after the Act passed, the hours might be from 6 to 8; the next year, from 6 to 7; the third year, from 6 to 6. That would give time for orders from abroad to be regulated by it. It would be less felt by the trade than if it came all at once. We should prefer that the orders should be more distributed, so as to give us less slack work.

518. A change to the short hours, including the boys as well as the girls, would work very badly for a time; it would put us to a great deal of inconvenience and expense, but it is not an insurmountable difficulty.

519. AMELIA FARNWORTH and ALICE WOOD (Mr. T. Cross, Bleach-Works) said, they worked generally from 6 or 7 to 8 or 9; when they were busy, a few times from 4 and 5 a.m.; and that they had never been off work for sickness, or had had sore feet or swelled ankles.

520. MARGARET RADCLIFFE said, that the hours were the same as the above, but that sometimes she could rest for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour during the day. She had been off work very little. In summer she sometimes has sore feet. She wears rings, and is better when she wears shoes instead.

521. BETTY FARNWORTH.—Had never been off her work, but has had sore feet in summer, though she sometimes wears shoes. She would like the short time Bill though she would earn less.

522. ELIZA PENDLEBURY.—Had never been ill or had swelled ankles or sore feet, but thought the short hours would be better for them.

523. SARAH SOUTHWORTH.—I superintend the stretching in the calendaring and mangling department. I have three girls under me. The hours for the last six or eight months have been from 6 till 10 and 10½ and 11, according to the work. All in this place begin at the same time and go on to the same time. We have very seldom any leisure during the day. We have to work very hard all the day through. I have gone home many a time for the fatigue from the long hours. It is not from the damp house, but from the long hours. I have been here about 12 months. I am 49 years of age. At first when I came we had very little work, and used to go home at about 4 in the afternoon.

524. [There are five boys in this room and seven men.]

525. JAMES THORNTON.—I have been here two years. When I first came we had not work for more than two or three hours a day for about 12 months. I used to earn 2s. and 2s. 6d. a day. Then we began work from breakfast time to 5 o'clock for about three months. For the last nine months the hours have been from about 7 till 10. We keep agate all that time except meal times. Two or three times last month we have had to stop two or three or four hours or more waiting for cloth, and had to fetch those hours up; we are fetching some time up now, and work till 10 or half-past 10 and 11, never after 11.

526. I should not like the short time because, if we could not have worked after hours lately, we should not have earned more than 3s. for a whole week. We have to work after 6 in consequence of waiting for the cloth. This slack time, when we could have earned only 3s. for the week, may have happened from the frost or from something going wrong.

527. [No females or boys employed in the damp room.]

528. WM. FARNWORTH.—I superintend the crofters (bleachers). We are three men and nine lads. We can generally get through, between 6 and 5 or 6 and 6 (when we are very busy, to 7); all the cloth that can be finished in a day. It would be very awkward for the boys to be obliged to be stopped at 6. It would be most awkward when we had to stop for cloth from the railway for a shipping order, or at a slack time when cloth might be sent us and wanted back in a few days. But when we have cloth in store ready, we could arrange the hours so as to get through the day's work by 5 o'clock. This is the common state of things, the others are exceptions. I would rather have time to look after the cloth in the bleaching, it is likely to be better done than when we are pushed.

529. JAMES KAY (Messrs. J. Smith, junr., & Co., Great Lever).—I am foreman of the making-up and packing.

580. We bleach and finish the cloth for Messrs. Horrocks, of Preston. It is chiefly for the home market. We are not much employed for the shipping business. Our hours, when we are busy, are seldom longer than from 6 to 8, sometimes as late as 10. We are not particular as to the hours of meals; we may calculate the meal-time at 2½ hours. In working those hours, from 6 to 8, while they are at work they keep on pretty quickly; they seldom have to wait one for the other. They do not come punctually at 6. Many of them do not begin till half-past 6. There is generally half an hour lost after the time fixed for starting.

581. If the short time Bill was to pass we should make them all come punctually, and only have 1½ hour for meals, so that we should save two hours. Taking the average of last year, they did not work more than 10 hours.

582. ANN WATSON.—I came at 3 o'clock on last Friday morning, and worked till between 8 and 9 on Saturday evening. All of us were working the same time, 14 girls. I am nearly 14. I have been here two or three years. It is a great while since I worked so long. We worked till 10 o'clock on Thursday night, and came at half-past 4 Thursday morning; on Wednesday I came about 5 o'clock and worked till 9 or 10; on Tuesday it was, I think, 5 o'clock in the morning when I came, and we worked on very late that night. We have often been agate this way.

583. ALICE MASON.—We came at 4 o'clock on Friday morning and worked till about half-past 10 that night. We came again on Saturday morning at half-past 3 and worked till about 8 on Saturday night. We have at times, when we were busy, been agate as long. I always have sore feet in summer time from working so long. My legs ache with standing so long, and going so fast with hocking.

584. RUTH POLLET.—I am just turned 13. I came to work on Friday morning at 3, and worked on till 11 at night. On Saturday it was half-past 3, and we left off at 8. On Thursday it was half-past 4, and went on till 10. I was doing the work (hocking) quick all the time.

585. MARTHA NORRIS.—I am going on 22. Worked the same hours, and had often done so here before.

586. ANNE STONE.—I am 19. I have been here three years. All this last week nearly we have been working those long hours. The week before it was pretty nearly as long. My legs ache much with the work, aye very often; sometimes more than other times; and my feet are often sore winter and summer.

587. JOHN MAKYS.—I am 25. I have worked here about 15 years. The long hours we sometimes work make us thin, and are not good for our health. I do not think but that the short time Bill would do us good.

588. CATHERINE HORROCKS.—I am turned 14 on Saturday. Last Saturday, Friday, and Thursday, and Tuesday, and Monday, I came to work at half-past 4, and 4, and 5, and worked till, I cannot exactly tell, but it was 9 and 10, and it was 11 on Friday night.

589. THOS. MAKYN.—I shall be 18 in July. The hours that the little girls say they worked are correct. I worked the same with them. It is not often that we work so long. It is commonest to work from 5 till 6, 7, 8, 9, and not often later. I should like to have the short time Bill because it would be better for the health of the lads. I have not been ill above once or twice; it was a good bit since.

590. JAMES KAY (having heard the above evidence read over).—That of Catherine Horrocks is the most exact. The others have not kept in their minds so exactly the precise hour at which they have come. The hours have not much varied for the last fortnight, but we are working longer now than is at all common. It sometimes happens that one or two of the women may have an hour or two in the day to themselves besides their meals; but the little girls, Ruth Pollet, Ellen Blakeley, and Catherine Horrocks, go on steadily. It is as much as they can do to keep up. The strong women can get on ahead with their work.

591. RICHARD HOLDS (Mr. Horridge's Bleach-Works, Raikes, Bolton).—I am foreman of the makers-up and scolders.

592. We employ about 120 hands. The hours of work for the last six months have been from between 6 and 7 in the morning to 9 and 10 at night, seldom later.

593. ELLEN HODSON.—I have worked here seven years. I have a sister at home ill now with bad legs from working so long. She works at the same table with me. I have been ill myself lately. The short time Bill will do us all good.

594. LOTIMA OLIVE.—My feet swell and my ankles pain me often; and I am as tired when I get up in the morning often as I am when I go to bed at night. I was 17 last day of January. I do not care how soon we have the short time Bill.

545. **MARY SHELKROSE**.—We have worked for some months from 6 till 9 and 10 each night. My legs have been very bad from standing for so long hours. We have a man and a girl off now from the long hours; her name is Alice Hodson. The girl has rheumatism in her legs. We want the short time very much. Sometimes my ankles swell so much I can hardly get home at night.

546. **JANE HAOWELL**.—Many times my ankles swell, and I am unwell from the work. I should indeed like the short hours. We know nothing here, we work so long.

547. **RICHARD HOLDEN**.—Alice Hodson is not able to stand the long hours. She has a weakly constitution.

548. We generally begin in the stiffening place at 6 o'clock and go on till 8, but we could get through it all between 6 and 6. We should take on another hand or two. We are not very particular as to a few minutes or quarter of an hour at most times, or about coming punctually at 6. We should have to keep going more regularly throughout the day.

549. We have 14 females here, no young girls.

550. [I asked nearly all these and received the same answer, namely, that they thought the hours too long, though there were longer hours at other places.]

FUSTIAN DYERS (some dyeing Calicoes also).

551. **MR. J. GRIME** (Messrs. S. and T. Ashton, Broughton Dye Works, Salford).—I am manager of these works. We bleach and dye fustians, and print fustians occasionally; we bleach and dye only for ourselves. Our manufactory is at Ransbottom, near Bury; we employ between 200 and 300. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6, with occasional overtime, but never going beyond 8 o'clock in the evening. We dye all kinds of colours. There is no difficulty in arranging the work so as to stop punctually at 6, or at any other time. If we knew that we should have to stop at a given time, we could arrange so that no mischief should arise. We have about 50 boys under 18. We very seldom go on beyond 6.

552. We do not work for the general trade. We always have a stock of goods before-hand, so that we can calculate the time we shall require to prepare them. We can adapt our labour to the quantity of goods we have to bring forward.

553. The firms which work for the general trade are not so well able to do so, as they are liable to sudden orders.

554. **MR. JOHN LANCASTER**.—I have been engaged in fustian dyeing upwards of 24 years as a principal. I dye calicoes also; we dye all sorts of calicoes. We never make more than 10½ hours a day, except perhaps for a week or two in a year. We arrange all the cloth so as just to stop at 6 o'clock without anything taking any harm. There is no difficulty at all about that matter. I think 10½ hours quite long enough for men and boys to work. They are tired when they have done, and are very anxious to give over.

555. I work for the general trade, and am subject to shipping orders; I work for the home trade and foreign, just as it comes.

556. I have generally more than 230 men and boys in my employ.

557. There is no reason that what I do others should not do in the same branch of business.

558. We do not exceed these hours from 6 to 6, even when we are busy; we take time to do it.

559. I think it must be more profitable to keep going on steadily in that way, than to work long hours overtime.

560. **MR. SCHOFIELD**, **MR. DEWHURST**, and **MR. WORRELL** all work these regular hours, and are in the general trade like myself, and dye both calicoes and fustians. Indeed, all the houses in the fustian dyeing trade in this neighbourhood work from 6 to 6 as a general rule (stopping half an hour for breakfast and an hour for dinner), and always have done since I was a boy. I have been in the trade for the last 40 years.

561. We are not bleachers, but we finish. We employ only five females, and eight or ten under 18.

562. **MR. THOMAS SCHOFIELD** (Messrs. Joshua Schofield and Sons).—I am a partner in the above firm. We are fustian dyers; we employ about 150 men and 100 boys. We execute orders for the general trade, both for the home and foreign market. We dye a variety of colours. Our hours of work are generally from 6 to 6 (10½ working hours). Occasionally we have to work overtime, as late as 9 and 10 o'clock. We should prefer never working overtime, but we are pressed by the merchants to execute orders by a particular day. We have considered the question of limiting the hours for boys to between 6 and 6, and we think it could be done without inconvenience. Now and then we might wish to make a little overtime, and we could easily arrange that it should be done by the lads above 18, and the men. As a general rule we should expect that if such a Bill passed, it would have the effect of equalising the work, and spreading it over a longer time. The merchants, knowing that we were debarred from working overhours, would be obliged to give us more time to execute their orders. As a general rule, there is no difficulty in any

of our processes in the way of stopping punctually at a given hour, by making our arrangements accordingly. If any little difficulty should arise, a few men and a few lads could be left to finish pieces which we must proceed with to prevent their being imperfectly done.

563. I think it is desirable that overtime should be discontinued for boys under 18. The process is laborious, moving heavy pieces, both in the bleaching previous to the dyeing, and in the dyeing itself. The finishing the goods by machinery where the boys chiefly are, is also laborious.

564. The only objection I should have to placing our works under inspection is, that we might be put to much inconvenience if we were liable to compulsory interference with regard to boxing off machinery which might at first sight appear dangerous. We of our own accord do everything we can to protect the people from dangerous machinery, but it would be very undesirable to hide from view a good deal of it, in consequence of the liability to fire from the friction produced by the small particles constantly flying about. My opinion is, that, if an inspector were to represent to me that a certain piece of machinery was dangerous, we ought to agree to refer it to two other masters in our own branch of business, to be chosen by the inspector; and if they concurred with him, I should feel at once that it was incumbent upon me to box it off, and I think that every master in the trade would feel the same, and that by such an arrangement there would be no necessity whatever for a compulsory power. The inspector would, of course, report to the Secretary of State that his opinion was supported by the two independent masters whom he called in, and any employer not following a suggestion so made would feel himself under a very great responsibility. I do not think that masters so called in would be at all likely to give an unfair opinion, or to combine together to protect each other. Persons in their position would feel the responsibility attaching to their being so called in by the inspector.

565. Our machinery is very different from that of the factories. If one loom in a factory breaks down, it has no effect upon the rest which are doing the same thing. Such a breakage as would stop the whole machinery of a factory is comparatively rare. Our machinery is heavy and cumbersome, and from its great weight liable to many breakages. It is so varied also, that the stoppage of one machine will stop the whole progress of the goods until it is repaired. For instance, the breakage of a mangle for goods out of the dye house, will stop the progress of all that batch in the drying and all the ulterior processes of the finishing. I think that we ought to have the power of making up for time so lost, within a certain limit, during the same day. For instance, if we lose one hour or three hours, we ought to be allowed to make it up that day, in all the processes ulterior to that in which the breakage occurred, and for all the cloth kept back in consequence of that breakage. We should be able very easily to prove this to the inspector, by an entry in a book, to be made by the foreman of the department, of the time when the breakage occurred, and the amount of delay caused.

566. The same power must be given to us if a delay is occasioned by pumps getting out of order, or water running short.

567. It is to be remembered also, in reference to this question, that we are "workmen for hire," we are employed by the merchants. We promise to deliver goods by a certain day. At present, if a breakage occurs we can fulfil our promise by working overhours. Our stoppages generally delay us from one to three or four hours only, as we keep things ready to repair them; but we might be delayed six or eight hours. In such cases, and they are not uncommon in the trade generally, we ought to be allowed to work three overhours in the day when the accident occurs, and three the following day. After that, we might recover time lost at the rate of an hour's extra work per day. By such an arrangement we should in all probability never have to disappoint our customers by not fulfilling the order to the day.

568. As it is, if we by accident lose a whole day by a breakage, we do not attempt to make it up; we consider it as a day lost. It always throws the goods a day behind. This is the general custom of the trade. What applies to us, applies to all in our branch.

569. If this power of making up for lost time were to be allowed us, we should have no objection to the limitation from 6 to 6.

570. This question has been considered in the meetings of the trade, and spoken of rather favourably. The facts are the same in all our works, and the proportion of boys employed about the same.

COTTON SKIN DYERS.

571. Two respectable men tendered the following evidence; but stated that they did not wish their names made public, lest their masters should discharge them.

572. We are a deputation from the cotton skin dyers. There are about 20 or 30 masters, within a circle of some six or seven miles round Manchester. The largest employs about 100 hands. There are two that employ from 40 to 60; the rest vary from six hands to eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, and so on. Not more than three employ steam power with manual labour (Mr. Brignall, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Worthington). A few of the others have steam power to grind their indigo, and to pump water. All the rest carry on their dyeing in small shops, a few men and a boy or two.

573. Our hours are from 6 to 6 for the regular day, and from 6 to 4 on Saturday. If the men work overhours, they are paid for them. The boys are generally hired by the

week, and are not paid for overhours. They seldom go on beyond 7 or 8, when they are busy; I have seen them as late as 9, but not often.

574. About Radcliffe there are many little shops of the same kind, some with only one or two, two or three men, generally from two men up to twenty. There are not more than two places that have twenty men; one is Messrs. Pendlebury's, who are large manufacturers of many kinds of cotton goods, and are bleachers and dyers of cotton goods also. The other is Mr. James Farrer's, of Chappel Field, who is also a dyer, bleacher, and manufacturer. None of the rest have steam power except one or two for grinding indigo. The small ones dye for hire, and are employed by the manufacturers. Some of them have their dyeing places in their own yards. According to trade they work the lads longer hours; sometimes we have only three or four hours in the day, sometimes 13 or 14.

575. Where there is no steam power there are very few lads employed.

576. It is only where there is steam power that the master has an inducement for employing boys, because boys can do the light work, in tending the machines, as well as men. There will be one man with four or five lads.

577. Mr. BRIGDAL.—This is a true statement. With regard to my own boys, they are paid for overtime.

578. [Mr. WORTHINGTON stated, he is only a skein-dyer, and does not employ steam power. Mr. Reid is a cloth-dyer.]

579. [Mr. ROBERT ANDREW, Harpurley, printer of skein yarns, Rochdale Road, Manchester.—The foreman stated, that no steam power is employed. The printing process is done with the assistance of a small machine turned by hand. No steam or water power is used by any of the skein dyers, except for raising water or grinding dyeing materials. No boys are employed about that, only two men.]

580. Mr. BRIGDAL, Skein and Cloth Dyer, South-street, Manchester.—I dye skein cotton yarn and cloth. In the dyeing of skein-yarn steam power is never used; it is used in printing skein cotton yarns. It is a very small business. In the cloth dyeing I employ from 12 to 20 boys connected with machinery. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ for meals. We sometimes work overtime, but never later than 8 o'clock. I stop the engine at that hour. On Saturday we stop at 4 o'clock. These overhours depend upon shipping orders from the merchants. The extra hours are from September to February. The rest of the year we are very slack.

581. If we are to be placed under restrictions as to hours, we should soon have more machinery to dispense with the labour of boys. I have had for the last year or so a folding-machine, which saves the labour of hooking. It makes no hook-mark or injury to the cloth, and does the work most properly, with any kind of cloth, strong or fine. It folds a piece of 37 yards in a minute and three quarters. The larger bleach and dye-works have to fold perhaps 10,000 pieces of that length, or a little less, per week; the whole of which would be done in a comparatively few hours by a few of these machines. They are small, requiring very little steam power, as simple a thing as need be, and not expensive, costing from 20*l.* to 30*l.* [Not applicable to all kinds of cloth.]

582. Sometimes the hours of work for boys would affect the small capitalists, like myself, much more than the larger ones. They would have machinery and buildings enough to enable them to do an extra quantity of work when an extra demand came. We cannot so well either add to our machinery or extend our premises; and if we were to employ men only to work the extra hours it might take away all the profit.

SILK AND WORSTED SKEIN DYERS.

583. Mr. JOHN TODD (Mr. T. Bury silk and worsted skein dyers, Silk Dye Works, Adelphi, Salford).—We are silk and worsted skein dyers. We employ no machinery except a small engine for stretching the skeins, and for the hydro-extractors, and there only men are employed.

584. The silk and worsted skein dyeing is everywhere done by the same processes of hand-labour. It goes on at Macclesfield, Leeds, Coventry, Congleton, Spitalfields, &c., for silk; and for worsted in the neighbourhood of Bradford, Wakefield, and a little about Huddersfield. I have been in a few of these. From the nature of the operation it must be by hand. (See § 1267.)

585. This is the only establishment of this kind in Manchester or Salford. The few small concerns for dyeing garments use no machinery.

586. All silk goods are dyed in the skein.

CALICO PRINTERS WHO BLEACH ALSO.

587. Messrs. HEALD, WILSON & Co., Calico Printers.—We dye and bleach at Stakesfield, near Middleton, solely for the purposes of our calico printing trade, and not for the market.

588. There are about 20 calico printers of consequence, employing from 150 to 300 hands, in all the three operations. I believe that none of them bleach and dye for the general trade.

589. Generally speaking, the bleach and dye-works connected with and for the purposes of the printing business, are together.

590. When they are together they are all under the Calico Print-Works Act.

591. The general hours of work are 6 to 6 at all places, overtime paid for after 6.

592. There are boys and girls both in the bleach and dye-works, as well as the print-works.

593. At certain seasons of the year overtime is a common occurrence; but we very seldom go on later than 8 o'clock, except in isolated instances, to finish an order.

594. I am not aware that any of the print-works work very long hours.

595. We are at certain seasons often hindered for want of water, not for working power, but for the purposes of washing, &c. Under any circumstances it would be necessary to enable us to make up time lost by being short of water, not on the following days, but when we wanted it. Also in case of breakage of machinery.

596. There are finishing and making-up-rooms attached to all the print-works; just folding up the goods, not calendaring, only stiffening and mangling; but the females and boys there are all under the Act, and, although permitted to work from 6 to 10, seldom avail themselves of it, except when very busy. Generally they stop at 8 o'clock, and on Saturday invariably not later than 2. This is the common practice in the trade.

597. As far as I am aware, no wish has been expressed by the females and boys, or by the adults, to have the Act extended.

598. The bleaching and dyeing goes on simultaneously with the printing, each process dovetails one into the other. We cannot bleach and dye quicker than print. All make the same number of hours or thereabouts each day; if we are slack in one part we are slack in another, and vice versa.

599. The reason that we are not liable to be called upon by the merchants to make such long hours for executing an order as the bleachers and dyers for the general trade is, that our orders do not come in such large quantities. The printing business is (comparatively speaking) a fancy trade, and is more in seasons than the bleaching, and the seasons are of shorter duration. There are longer intervals of sickness between.

600. Our works are as large as any in the trade; and our business is chiefly for the foreign markets.

601. Mr. ALFRED NEELD (of the firm of Thomas Hoyle and Sons).—We are among the largest calico printers in the world. Our print-works are in Manchester; and our bleach and dye-works for the purposes of our print-works are at Duckinfield near Aston, about seven miles off. We employ very few boys under 13, at either the bleach or the dye-works, but those that are we consider as coming under the Print-Works Act. We do not bleach and dye for the regular trade, but solely for the purpose of our printing business.

602. This, I believe, is unusual among the whole of the calico printers.

603. The nature of our trade is such, that for about three months in the year (December, January, and February,) we are all very busy, but the principal part are females; boys even then do not work usually later than 8 o'clock, and even then not often continuously for many days together; and the labour itself of an intermittent kind, it is not continuous. The boys carry pieces and hook them; the females are engaged chiefly in sewing.

604. There has been no wish expressed by the females and boys in our trade to have their hours shortened, nor by any persons in their behalf.

605. For the remaining nine months in the year they seldom work beyond 6 o'clock, and often not so long.

606. Mr. ORLANDO ASHWORTH, Watling-street, Manchester.—I am engaged in the business of embossing, dyeing, and finishing cotton goods. I employ about 40 men, about 35 young men of 18 to 22, and about 25 boys whose ages vary from 10 to 15 and 16.

607. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 7 from February 17, to November 17 and from 8 to 8 in the other months. We leave off at 4 on Saturdays. We have three busy months in the spring and three in the autumn, during which we work overhours three or four nights in the week on an average, but rarely later than 10 o'clock; we are then executing orders for the foreign market, never for the home trade. The goods are for Calcutta, for the American, the Levant and the German markets. The merchants send us their goods, and require us to finish them in a given time.

608. We should decidedly prefer not working overhours. We do not find it advantageous. The majority of the causes of overwork are referable to the demands of the merchants.

609. Our hands are so arranged that if one portion, i.e., the boys under 18, are taken from the work it would derange the operations of the whole. 15 boys keep 30 lads at work, and 30 lads keep as many men going. If we were to be compelled to dismiss the 15 boys at (say) 6 o'clock, and substitute 15 lads over 18, the same number of men would be stopped. It would make a difference of about thirty per cent. on the time required to execute an order which obliged us to work overtime, or (say) one additional day in about three or four. What we should execute in a week at present would then take us perhaps eight days.

610. As far as I am aware, neither the men nor the boys have complained of overwork.

611. There are in the embossing trade only four firms, Messrs. Goodyear, Kawa, & Co., Mr. Isaac Bury, Mr. S. Dewhurst, & Co., and myself. We imprint various patterns upon

calicoes and woollen goods. The woollen goods are sent to us from Bradford. The calicoes are all manufactured hereabouts. There is no other embossing of woollen and calicoes done in the kingdom that I am aware of. Silk is not embossed.

612. If the hours for boys were to be limited, it would make no difference to this firm. I should not suffer at all by it. I should meet it by a small increase of machinery. I should have a reserve to meet these irregularities in the trade.

613. As regards the hours, we ought at all events to have the power of working from 7 to 7 or from 8 to 8. There are many reasons for this connected with the trade.

614. Within my recollection the hours of overwork have greatly diminished, and by enforcing regularity we get our hands here punctually to the appointed time. It rarely happens that any workman absents himself without leave, and he is subject to a small fine if he does not send a message to say why he stays away. The money arising from the fines is applied as a sick and burial fund.

615. My opinion is, that the influence of a large community like Manchester, and the example of the regulation of the hours in the factories, together with the growing number of masters who feel a responsibility towards the workmen, are producing great improvement, and tending to keep a strong check on excessive hours of labour, even without parliamentary interference. This remark may not be so applicable to the country districts.

616. We are subject to the competition of Germany and Belgium in our branch of business. Ours is a continuous and not a season trade. We maintain our advantage over Belgium and Germany by our greater expedition in the execution of orders, arising from our machinery, and the concentration of all the appliances connected with the business; also by our being able occasionally to work overhours. If the latter were taken away from us, we should have to keep a reserve of machinery, as I have before mentioned.

617. Mr. BENTLEY, Despatcher, Manchester.—We are calenderers, finishers, and packers for the Manchester trade. We employ about 45 men, and from 15 to 20 boys, of whom about 8 are under 16, about 12 between 16 and 18.

618. Our hours of work are from 8 to 8 the year round. Sometimes we work over hours, when that is the case we seldom go beyond 10. In very busy years we have worked two months and a half overtime. That was in 1851 and 1852. We never did so before, it was quite exceptional. Last year we did not make full time the year round. The year before we made about full time.

619. The reason of our working overtime is, that the merchants, the printers, or the dyers send us goods to finish towards the latter end of the day. In consequence of a vessel having to go at a certain date, we are compelled to have the goods ready. When we have done with them, most of them have to go to warehouses to be packed and forwarded.

620. When we work overhours we invariably send home all boys who attend the machinery; these are three, the youngest. All the rest stay and work as long as the men do.

621. We should not like to be obliged to send away the rest, unless the warehouses were included in the same Act, as they can perform the same work of making up and packing, and do to a very great extent.

622. There are two large warehouses which have machinery for calendering, and there will soon be many more. The making up and packing, which is carried on in almost every warehouse, is done without machinery. The reason why the great warehouses are going into the business of calenderers and finishing is, that, as they are in the habit of sending out goods late in the day to be finished, the finisher cannot accommodate all parties, having "to play" a great part of the day and to work at night. The result is, that the finisher disappoints his customers, and the great merchants say, "we must now do the thing ourselves." The finishers in Manchester have only small establishments, employing from 40 to 60 hands, and there are only eleven in Manchester and Salford. There are others who make up and pack and call themselves calenderers, but do not do any such work, they give it out to be done by us.

623. There are certain men and lads in the calendering and finishing trade called jobbers. These are sent for by the great warehouses when they are wanted, and paid 4d. and 6d. per hour (calenderers, makers-up, and packers). They are employed by warehouses in busy times, and are then difficult to get. The finishers are obliged to keep a set of men constantly in their employ, whether they are busy or not. We do not like to employ the jobbers; it is in many respects undesirable to us in reference to our business. Sometimes we have to send for them (although we do not like it), when a sudden order comes in, occasioning overtime. When we want jobbers and cannot get them, we have to keep on a certain number of our men and lads from other departments to fill the places of the jobbers, so as to enable us to execute our orders in time.

624. A deal of the difficulty which we are at present will be obviated when we come to consider about it. I have no doubt about it. The merchants and other parties will have to think how to get over it as well as ourselves; it will, in my opinion, result in a general advance of prices for the various processes of bleaching, dyeing, and finishing; if that should be so, we should be enabled to employ hands of 18 and above in those extra hours. The cost of the bleaching, dyeing, and finishing is but small in the goods for the home

trade, and also in many descriptions of goods for the foreign market. In low-priced goods for the latter market, which are done in considerable quantities, costing (say) 3s. 6d. per piece of 28 yards in the gray state, a rise in the price of bleaching and finishing of say 2d. would be 5 per cent. upon the selling price.

625. If upon a piece of that value a bleacher got an additional halfpenny, and the calenderer also an additional halfpenny, we should be about satisfied with that advance, and should be able to employ extra labour in doing extra work. The dyers seldom work overtime. The other penny might go to the maker up and pecker.

626. If any Bill is to pass restricting the hours of labour, it would suit all the houses in my branch of business in Manchester to be able to adopt the limitation from 7 to 7, or 8 to 8; as being on the spot, and near the merchants, we often receive goods to finish towards the afternoon.

627. [Notice given by Mr. Bentley to his workpeople.—“On and after the 17th February 1855, the hours of labour in these works will be from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m. the year round.—” Signed, JAMES BENTLEY.”]

628. Mr. SAMUEL BURY (Mr. Isaac Bury, Dyeing, Finishing, and Embossing Works).—We employ about 120 men, and about 12 or 14 boys, under 18, and five females.

629. Our regular hours of work are, for nine months in the year, from 6 to 7, and the remainder from 8 to 7.

630. We make overtime frequently, according as the shipping orders come in. We are ruled by that entirely.

631. When we are very busy we work from 6 to 10, or 6 to 11, but more frequently from 6 to 8 or 9.

632. On those occasions we always send the young boys home as early as we can, generally about 7 o'clock.

633. The majority of the overtime is not made in the departments where the younger boys are employed.

634. The overtime takes place more particularly in the calendering.

635. It frequently happens that we require but few young boys to stay over hours.

636. Sometimes in the making-up department we send the younger boys home, and keep the older to do the work that is required.

637. Sometimes I allow boys to go home earlier, in order to go to a night school, and always endeavour to encourage them in what may contribute to their improvement.

638. [Mr. VAUGHAN (Messrs. Clouston and Vaughan, Fastian Dyers, &c.) stated, that the hours of labour at his works were from 6 to 6, with an hour on half for meals; and that they very seldom made overhours. They were subject to the same kind of pressure from the merchants to execute shipping orders that the bleachers were, but they, as a rule, refused to work overtime. Sometimes, to oblige a customer, they might do so for three or four days in a week, up to 8 or 9 o'clock, but this was rare. If an Act passed limiting the hours for females and boys under 18, and they still wished sometimes to work beyond the time allowed for them, he should keep the lads above 18 to work those overhours. He should have no difficulty about it, and thought 10½ working hours were quite enough for all persons.]

WEST OF SCOTLAND.

CHIEFLY COTTON BLEACH-WORKS.

639. Messrs. W. ADAM & SON, Milnbank, Glasgow.—We are bleachers and finishers of coloured cotton and woollen fabric. We employ from 150 to 200 hands; our general hours of work are from 6 to 7, allowing 1½ hours for meals, and three quarters to each meal. On Saturdays we stop at 3.

640. Several of our females have to work in the stove-rooms, where the thermometer ranges from 90° to 100°. In one room we have introduced recently a great improvement. The females are separated from the stove by a division of glass; and out of eight employed, four are sitting down, directing the progress of the cloth on the finishing frames; these four change occasionally with the other four, and none of them are required to go into the stove. The cloth is conducted into the stove where the temperature is about 150°, and in consequence of that increased heat we can dry a greater quantity in a short time. It is then folded up.

641. We are at times called upon by the merchants to execute shipping orders suddenly; but we may conclude that, if the hours of females and boys were limited by Act of Parliament, they would be obliged to give us a little more time. At our very busiest time (in the winter months, December or January), we seldom have occasion to continue the people at work beyond our usual hours, more than three times a week, or rather twice. We have the means of doing a larger amount of work when required.

642. The questioning of shortening the hours of labour has been long considered by us. We were amongst the first to reduce the hours from 6 to 8, to their present limit; this was about 10 years ago; and I see no difficulty in reducing it to the same hours as the factories, provided all were placed upon the same footing.

643. JAMES THOMSON (Mr. Wallace's Bleaching, Scouring, and Finishing Works for Cotton and Woollens, Burnbank, Glasgow).—I am manager of these works, and nephew of the owner. We employ about 10 men and 40 females; we have that number in summer. Our usual hours are in winter from 6 to 9 (half an hour for meals) and on Saturdays we stop at 3, stopping half an hour for breakfast only. In summer the hours are essentially the same, but some of the hands work generally for 15 hours a day at the very least, for three alternate days a week, but sometimes it is every day in the week, and occasionally from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. the whole week through; we did that last summer several times. Three days we worked 20 hours each day. The age of most of our girls is from 10 to 18. The stove-rooms in which they work are in winter heated up to 100° to 110°; in summer the heat is from 120° to 130°.

644. I feel, when I am urging the females to work these long hours, I am doing what is not right, but I have been urged to do it to get a lot of goods finished.

645. Sometimes they stay here all night, and then we make a place for them to lie down upon in a stove-room upon the pieces of goods unfinished. Sometimes 14 or more girls will pass the night in this manner, after working 19 hours, and coming out of those hot places dripping wet with perspiration, and their clothes wet through with it.

646. MARGARET CAMPBELL.—I have worked in bleach-works 20 years, the 10 last here. I have often been ill from working in the great heat; my leg is now bad with it, and the doctor told me I must give up. The girls very often suffer from it, go away and die from it and the long hours; they often complain that their health is quite gone; they look very pale and tired from it.

647. [There were 20 females in one of these rooms. I asked them all whether they wished to have the hours shortened, they all immediately expressed their assent with great apparent pleasure. They said they would readily "want the money" they got by working overtime. They said "it took it all to keep up their bodies," to stand the heat and the long hours.]

648. MATTHEW BOWEN.—I am engineer at these works. I have been here 16 years. I have seen a great deal of the injury arising to the females from their long hours and the heat, injury to their bodies and to their minds; and is all might be prevented by our putting in another stove. The cost would be very little, and it would soon be repaid, because the goods are not well done at night, and they would be done by day and no gas burned. Goods are often sent back for being badly finished by the night work. The females get into that state in the evening, when they have wrought the overtime, that they are not fit to attend to their work.

649. [The manager and the engineer further state, that "Mr. Wallace is quite willing for the hours to be reduced like the factories, but he would prefer it to be done by mutual arrangement rather than by the interference of the Government."]

650. Mr. McCOLL, Kelvinhaugh Bleach-Works, Glasgow.—We employ seven men and 27 females. About 10 months ago, at the workers' request, we reduced the net hours of work from 12 a day to 11. At some periods of the year we work a good deal overtime, as far as to 12 p.m., from 6 a.m.; for this overtime they are paid a day and a half, and if they work to 9, they are paid a day and a quarter. We do not like this overtime; we find the workers not so fit for work the next day. If the hours for females were to be limited, as with factories, the merchants, who are the cause of this overtime, would be obliged to conform, which we should be very glad of; we find it very disadvantageous.

651. Working 11 hours net, we allow an hour for meals; and we stop on Saturdays at 3 o'clock.

652. [The heat in the stoves is about 105° in winter, but much higher in summer.]

653. Mr. J. WALKER, Castlebank Bleach-Works, Partick, Glasgow.—I employ about 18 men, and about 70 females. The usual hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with 2 hours for meals, but three quarters of an hour is the allowed time.

654. In case of a hurry we take an extra hour or two, but for these we pay the hands double time.

655. I should be very happy to adopt the same hours as the factories, if all were to be put upon the same footing. The extra hours are no advantage to the bleachers, and we merely work them to oblige the manufacturers.

656. The chief number of our females are employed in the stoves. The heat is "moderate," not above 90°, but in summer it is higher.

657. About three years ago most of the bleachers reduced their hours of leaving off work, from 8 o'clock to 7, by general agreement.

658. Mr. WILLIAM FRATHERN (Mr. Alexander Wilson's Bleach and Dye-Works, Bellshamphell).—I am manager of these works. We employ about 50 boys and girls, and about five men.

659. About 4 years ago we reduced the hours to 11 working hours a day, in the stove only, where most of the hands work. In the dye-house we work only 10 hours, and we arrange the work so as to stop precisely at that hour; sometimes we work a little overtime, but rarely.

660. In my opinion the boys and girls in the stove would do just about as much work in 10 hours as they do now in 11. They would work with more energy; they now get relaxed towards the end of the week. The heat in the stove is 110° at this moment, which is the heat we wish to keep it at. In summer it ranges about the same, as that heat suits our style of work. At breakfast we allow an hour, and at dinner an hour; but by their own wish they take only three quarters of an hour at each, in order to be able to leave off at half-past 2 on Saturdays.

661. If the hours were to be put on the same footing as the factories, we should not on this work be put about at all by it.

662. When we ask the girls to work overtime (sometimes about six hours in a fortnight), we pay them in the proportion of their day's wages; but if it comes to (say) 5 hours extra, we call it half a day.

663. Messrs J. & H. McCONNELL, Kirklee Bleach-Works, Glasgow.—We employ about 30 hands; of them 15 are females. Our hours are from 6 to 7, and two hours off for meals.

664. I should be very agreeable to have the same as the factory, from 6 to 6, and a short day on Saturday.

665. We bleach webs and yarns of every description, and we use machinery for wetting, washing, starching, and drying (with extractors).

666. Mr. BRAUMONT FLEMING (Messrs. Fleming's Bleach-Works, Newlandsfield).—I am a partner and manager of these works. We employ about 30 men and 250 females when we are busy. Of these females 35 are employed in the bleaching houses. In these it would be very inconvenient to stop at 6 o'clock, because some of the chemical processes are not finished by that time, and the goods could not lie over till the next morning. We begin at 5 a.m. and stop at 7. If the goods are not out of danger we work past that hour, a little longer. All the rest of the processes might stop at 6; the drying and finishing departments employ all the rest. We have only two boys employed.

667. In the bleaching department we go on all night, and have three, four, or five females, and two men. That goes on all the year round.

668. If there were to be a clause in the Bill, allowing us to finish up the work, so as to put the goods going through the chemical process out of danger, we would not object to the Bill. The short hours could be introduced without difficulty in the drying departments.

669. America and Germany are coming up so close to us in particular goods (Germany in ginghams and other light fabrics, and the Americans in printed goods and jacquets) that, if we could not get our goods forward as rapidly as we do now to suit the merchants, they might send to those countries for a supply, and it would be against the interest and business of this country.

670. We are all upon day's wages, no piece-work. The reason is, that the pieces of goods are so small and light, and therefore so numerous, that piece-work could not be managed. Our labourers have 12s. a week in the bleaching department, and most of the females 6s.; in the drying and finishing departments the women have 7s. 6d., 7s., 5s.; for the learners and little girls, 3s. to 3s. 6d., or 4s.

671. We work no overtime. We gave up this about a year ago. We are thus able to begin more punctually in the morning.

672. [Considerable additions are being made to these works.]

673. Mr. GILMORE (Messrs. James Young & Son, Bleaching and Finishing Works, Auldhousefield).—I am the principal manager of these works. We employ about 80 men and 240 women, and about 40 girls and boys. We bleach and finish fine goods. Our hours of work are from 6 to 7, but the rule is only 64 hours per week. The meal hours are $1\frac{1}{2}$ a day, and we stop on Saturdays at a quarter past 3 o'clock. Sometimes we work two or three hours beyond 7, when we are pushed to execute an order; and it has happened three or four times in the year, for the last two. In such cases we do not work on the following day.

674. In all other cases we ring our bell at 7 o'clock, and on Saturdays at a quarter past 3, and the whole works stop. In the bleaching part, the bleacher studies so to have his goods arranged that they will not go wrong, or take any damage. We employ about 20 females in the bleaching department. We do just the same kind of work as our neighbour, Mr. Fleming. We never have any occasion to go on after 7, to prevent injury to goods. If goods require two hours in the chloride of lime (which is the only process in which they can go far wrong), and we have only an hour before 7, the goods lie over till the next day.

675. We are favourable to a standing regulation of the hours for all parties, by Act of Parliament. We shortened the hours voluntarily two years ago, to 7 o'clock. All the masters did not come into that, only 11 out of upwards of 40. Those eleven were the principal persons in the white bleaching trade.

676. The highest temperature in our stoves is 120° . There are about 30 to 40 females in that, and six to eight men. The temperature in the other stoves is from 90° to 110° .

677. We think that, considering the above temperatures, the hours from 6 to 6, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for meals, are quite as long as are desirable, either for the masters or the workpeople. On Saturday, the hours for stopping should be, as in the factories, at 2 o'clock.

678. [Mr. King, general manager, concurred in the above.]

679. We have been enlarging our works, and have nearly completed a considerable addition to them since we commenced in November. This question of shortening the hours for females and boys has been under consideration for upwards of two years. We have thought it desirable to make preparations beforehand, in the case of such a Bill passing. In my opinion, any preparation of the kind that might be necessary could be executed within six months of the Bill passing.

680. We have very few children under 11, and we never take them under 10. If by fixing the age at 11, school certificates would be rendered unnecessary, 11 would be the better age. There would be no need to burden the Act with the machinery of compulsory school attendance, if we were not to employ children before they were 11.

681. We have very little dangerous machinery exposed, and accidents are rare. We are very careful to fence off whatever seems to us dangerous. If an inspector were to suggest that any portion was dangerous which had not before appeared to us to be so, if the suggestion were reasonable, we should be very glad to attend to it. We should think it better that the Bill should be as simple as possible, provided it were explicit as to the hours of labour.

682. ALEXANDER KING.—I work at Mr. James Young and Son's bleach-works, Auldhousefield, Pollockshaw. We bleach gingham and muslin. There are about 300 hands employed; of these 250 are females. When we are busy the number is about 400. Our ordinary hours of work, previously to November 1853, were 16 hours a day; since then the plan has been adopted of a night-shift, the hands for the day-shift begin at 6 a.m., and go on till 7 p.m. The night-shift then begins, and goes on till 6 a.m. Sometimes, about once a week, one shift will begin at 6 a.m., and go on till 6 the next morning. This has happened once a week on an average for the last six months.

683. The females all work in the stoves. The thermometer is about 110°.

684. We had a conference with the masters in October 1853; at this conference 11 employers agreed to work 66 hours per week, with relays for night work. All these have broken through it, except Mr. William Cunningham, of West Arthurville, Barthead.

685. At Mr. Young's works, although he does not allow his people to exceed the 66 hours a week, he employs them at irregular hours; for instance, a set may begin at 12 o'clock in the day, and work till 12 at night; another time, a set may begin at 3 a.m., and work till 5 p.m. This is the very common practice when we are "through" of work; so that we never can reckon upon what time we may have to ourselves.

686. Mr. GILBOYS.—There are some inaccuracies in the above statement. Previously to October 1853, we did not work regularly 16 hours a day, only just occasionally when we were very busy; and at that period we counted 12 hours a day, and whatever time was wrought above that was paid as overtime; and when we wrought a whole night, we only got 10 hours' labour for 12 hours' pay.

687. We still work with night-shifts. We employ in busy times about 30 females and 8 men. They begin at 7 and work till 12; then there is a meal hour; they then work from 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

688. Alexander King is correct in saying that on Monday morning frequently the set that begins then works till 6 o'clock the next morning, with one and a-half hours for meals in the day and two hours in the night, i.e., from 7 to 8 and from 12 to 1. But they do not exceed 66 hours in the whole week, according to our arrangement. Those who work in this way will be the number above stated, 30 females and 6 or 8 men. Among the females will be some from 10, 11, to 13 years of age; the rest chiefly between that and 20. This is not a system that we like or approve of, and we should be very well satisfied to see that it was put an end to by a general Act.

689. Mr. STARK (Mr. J. H. William Cram's Bleaching and Finishing Works, Thornleybank, Pollockshaw, Glasgow).—I am the manager of this department of Mr. Cram's works. We have also a print-work on the same premises. The hands in the latter only are under the Print-Works Act.

690. In the bleaching and finishing department we employ about 400 persons, men, females, and boys. We bleach and finish heavy cotton goods principally, and woollens also. Our hours are from 6 to 7, with two hours for meals. On Saturday we stop at 3; on Friday night we work to 8, in order that the hands may stop at 2 on Saturday instead of 3. We very seldom work overtime; when we do so, it is generally within the months from December 1, to the end of April. The overtime is sometimes two or three days in the week, in other weeks not at all. We never exceed 10 o'clock, except with relays; and for this overtime they are paid the same rate as their day's wage, and get an hour's rest from 7 to 8.

691. When we are very much pressed, we have relays. There is a certain class of over-work, such as beetling goods, where we go night and day all the year round, but we employ none but men there. The night-shift in the beetling department came on at 7 p.m. and work till 6 a.m., and they have an hour during the night for refreshment. In the night-shift we employ no females or boys; they are all men.

692. The heat in our hottest stove is from 100° to 120°, within the machines; but by our arrangement the females have only to go into that heat for a few minutes at a time.

693. As far as our works are concerned, the factory limitation of the hours would have the effect of preventing our working at times till 10 o'clock in the busy seasons, and it would probably oblige us to add to our machinery to enable us to do the same work in a shorter time. The tendency of a general measure would be to cause the work to be distributed over a longer time; the merchants would have to anticipate a little their present time, if the masters thought it undesirable to increase their powers of production. The probability is that there would be a little of both.

694. [Mr. McClure, the principal manager of these works, concurred in the above.]

695. [Mr. Walter Crum stated to me, that although no one in business liked to encounter an additional difficulty, and legislative interference was not wanted in reference to his own works, yet that if good reason was shown for protecting females and boys from the effects of extra labour at other works, he should be unwilling to place any obstacle in the way.]

696. [At Mr. Wallace's works, Netherphoe, where about 400 persons are employed in bleaching and finishing fine-worked muslins and other fine articles, the hours worked are from 6 to 7, with very little overtime. The appearance of the females was very clean and respectable, and betokened the frequent presence and attention of the ladies of Mr. Wallace's family. It appeared that there was every disposition in these works to adopt the same limitation of hours as in the factories. The principle was approved of, and doubtless it would be advantageous to the women and girls, and prevent cases of sickness which now sometimes occur. The temperature of the hottest stove is from 100° to 105°, rarely more, except by want of attention. Some of the girls were below 11. The work is very light—bleaching, washing, starching, &c., ladies' worked dresses, collars, scarfs, &c.]

697. Mr. ARCHIBALD McNEIL (Mr. J. Cochran, Jun., & Co, Chappelfield, Barryhead).—I am manager and partner of these works, and have had 33 years experience in bleach-works. We bleach coloured and white muslin. We employ about 250 hands, of whom about 230 are females; the youngest being about 13. Our hours are from 6 to 7, with 1½ for meals, and we stop on Saturdays at 3 o'clock. We very seldom work overhours. I am in favour of reducing the hours to those of the factories, and think that it is impossible without an Act to get all parties to work the same. If all were alike as to hours, there would be no difficulty about it.

698. Mr. JAMES CUNNINGHAM & SONS, West Arthurie, Barryhead.—We bleach and finish muslins, and employ about 200 females, and about 60 males. We have more than that when we are busy. The youngest are from 10 to 12. Our hours are 6 to 7, with 1½ hours for meals; and we stop on Saturdays at a quarter past 3.

699. The usual working heat in our stoves is from 90° to 110°. Nearly all the females are employed in those.

700. We have not worked any overtime since we entered into the arrangement with the operatives in October 1853. Some of the bleach-work masters did not enter into that arrangement, and are therefore able to work their people as long as they please. We should therefore be glad to see the whole put upon the same footing. We should prefer the present hours, from 6 to 7.

701. For four or five weeks in the course of the year, at various times, we may not be employed at all. We may be idle one day in a fortnight; as we depend upon the manufacturer sending us goods to bleach, &c. The slack time is generally in the summer. If the merchant and manufacturer were to give out the goods a little earlier, we should be more regularly employed. Before we entered into the arrangement of 1853, we used to be pushed by the merchant and manufacturer, and obliged to work 16 hours a day continuously for a time, and sometimes all night. The merchant and manufacturer have reformed already to that alteration.

702. We should not object to come down from our present hours (66 per week) to 60, if all were placed upon the same footing.

703. Mr. BLACKWOOD, Arthurie.—We bleach cotton thread, and cotton yarn, &c., and employ about 60 hands. Our hours are from 6 to 6 generally, and sometimes a little more. This is the only work of this kind here.

704. If we were all put on the same footing, and we were not allowed to work overtime, it would be quite the same to us. The few other thread bleachers work about the same hours as ourselves.

705. Mr. ALEXANDER COCHRANE, Jun., & Co, Kiktonfield, Neilston, Paisley.—We bleach and finish all classes of plain and embroidered muslins. We employ, when we are busy, nearly 700 hands, of whom about 600 are females; the youngest being seldom under 11, not more than 15 or 20 being under 15.

706. In October 1853, we adopted the arrangement of working from 6 to 7, and stopping at 3 on Saturdays. We work overtime very rarely, and if we do we do not exceed the 66 hours in the week. Just a few hands may do this to finish up the goods in process.

707. We have a night-set in the bleaching department only. The reason of this is, that we have to bleach very fine embroidered muslins, which require about three weeks to bleach, going on night and day.

708. Subsequently to the arrangement of 1853, we largely increased our bleaching department, partly to meet the reduction of the hours, partly because the trade increased. We had to bleach quick enough to keep the finishers going during the restricted hours.

709. The nature of the work in bleaching these embroidered goods is such, that it is necessary that it should go on continuously night and day.

710. In this department of bleaching, we employ for the night work about 10 men and 20 females. They are all strong grown up women.

711. The goods are very valuable and delicate, and we do not think that the labour of young men is suitable to it.

712. This department constitutes our great difficulty in conforming to the factory hours, which forbid night work for females.

713. Those females who work at night, begin at 7 p.m., and leave off at 5 a.m., having one hour for supper at 12.

714. We do not consider working overtime in the finishing department profitable. At present it may occur that the hands in that department may lose a couple of hours in one day, and may make it up in the course of the week, by working till 8 the two days following.

715. We have no overtime in the bleaching department.

716. The females in the bleaching department earn 6s. 6d. per week, and the ordinary working men 12s. We have generally a large quantity of these embroidered muslins in hand, of a very great aggregate value. They are ladies' dresses and collars, flounces, trimmings, children's robes; worth from 1l. to 10l. per piece. We have often a great many thousand pieces in hand at the same time.

717. The only other principal work in this trade is Mr. Wallace's, at Netherplace.

718. Messrs. M. ARTHUR & SON, Crofthead Bleach Works, Neilston.—We employ about 180 females and 30 men and boys. We bleach and finish muslins. Our hours are from 6 to 7, and on Saturdays we stop at 3. We work no overtime; we adopted the regulation in October 1853.

719. We have three stoves, and the females are, with the exception of six, employed in these stoves. Two are back-muslin stoves; the thermometer in which is kept as near as possible between 90° and 100°; near the furnace 103°; near the door it is cool.

720. Of our girls, about 25 to 30 are under 18; the rest are grown up.

721. As regards our processes, there would be no difficulty about stopping at 6; we can stop in a minute at any time.

722. In the other stove, the thermometer is about the same. It is hotter to-day than usual, as the class of goods we are finishing is heavier.

723. A large number of our females are working in very cool places.

724. Although our buildings are very airy, and our locality very favourable, and all our people remarkably healthy, still the present hours of 11 a day are more than the young girls can properly stand.

725. When we reduced the hours to the present limit, we did not reduce wages; we raised our prices for bleaching, &c. to the manufacturers.

726. If the hours were further reduced, and trade were to become bad, we might be obliged to reduce the wages.

727. All ours is day-work. There is no piece-work in our trade.

728. The principal elements of expense in our processes are starch, coal, and wages. Starch a few years ago was at 25l. a ton, it is now 40l. In our process we use a ton a week.

729. Coal has advanced 30 per cent. in the same time.

730. If we had moderate prices in those two articles, it is very possible that the factory hours might be adopted without reducing wages.

731. [To questions put by me to some of the girls and women in these stoves, as to whether they wished the hours to be shortened, the answers were: "The ladies are crying out for it." "I should like it well." "It would be very good to get out of the burning stove for an hour more a day." At the same time many of them said they would rather go on as at present, than have their earnings reduced.]

732. Mr. JOHN BROWN (Robert Fulton & Co., Glenfield, Paisley).—I am a partner of this firm. We are scourers and shawl washers; we employ about 35 men and 35 women, mostly grown up, and about six boys. About a year ago we adopted 63 hours a week, in place of 66. We seldom work overhours, but it does happen; about two years ago we worked from Friday morning at 6 p.m. all through Friday night, and until Saturday afternoon at 3, meal times excepted, and two hours at night (from 7 to 8, and from 1 to 2). This might happen again if we were pushed. Two females worked at that time with the set, the same hours as the men.

733. The boys are 14 years of age. The work is rather heavy, and we do not require younger ones.

734. We could go on very well with these hours, and do not require them shortened, but as they work long hours at other places, we should not object to the factory hours for the sake of them.

735. The other firms in this business are J. & G. Aikman; Joh Colquhar, Bridge-street; Crum & Co., Thornlie Bank. The two first, I believe, work the same hours as we do.

736. [See Evidence, as to Messrs Crum's work.]

737. ROBERT STEWART (Messrs. A. Hamilton & Sons, Blacklandsill, Paisley).—We bleach and finish muslins, and employ about 50 men and 300 females; the younger ones being from about 11 to 14, of whom we have about 10; the boys 12, are between 10 and 14.

738. Our hours of work are from 6 to 7, with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for meals, and we stop at a quarter past 3 on Saturdays. We adopted that regulation when the other masters did. We never work overtime. Sometimes, about once or twice a week, we have a night-set, who begin at 8 and go on till 6, with one hour for refreshment; in this set there are 15 women, and one man, no boys.

739. The work for the females is of two kinds; one is "braiding," that is, pulling out the cloth to its full breadth while it is stretched upon frames. We have for this four rooms, and there will be about 170 females in them. They will be in them without intermission during the hours of work. The thermometer is never, if we can avoid it, above 100° . It is rather higher near the fires.

740. The other description of work, in which about 180 females are employed, is starching and drying. The greatest portion of these are alternately in the stove for ten minutes, where the heat is rather above 100° , and then for five minutes in a cool room; the cooling is necessary to prevent the starch hardening too quickly. In this starching process, we reckon that two girls get through from three to four pieces an hour. It depends upon the quality of the goods.

741. We never exceed the 60 hours in the week, but without a law being passed there is no security that others will not break through the agreement, and work longer hours to our disadvantage. We are all agreeable to have it brought down to 60 hours, if it were the same for all. In my judgment 60 hours are quite long enough for any one to work in such heat, or in any other employment.

742. Before the arrangement we used to work from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., with only $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours for meals. Wages have not been altered. The increase in the price of starch and coals is much against us in bringing down the hours from 5 to 6 a.m.

743. Mr. ROBERTSON, Junr. (Messrs. Mathew Robertson and Co., Foxbar and Lonsdale Bleach-Works).—We bleach and finish fine muslins of all descriptions. We employ between the two places 450 hands; of these only 30 are men, and about 30 boys between 12 and 16. Our hours of work are from 6 to 7, with an hour and three-quarters for meals, and on Saturday we stop at a quarter past 3, with three quarters of an hour for breakfast.

744. We adopted these hours at the time of the regulations made by the masters. We never work overhours or night work.

745. Our stoves average about 90° ; we do not require a greater heat. The girls are about five minutes in the hottest part of the room, then about the same time in the next part, where are about 75° , then five minutes in the cool room. This is the process in the starching and finishing department.

746. In the "starching stoves," where the goods are stretched, the heat is 100° . We have only 20 females in those.

747. As far as our works are concerned, there is no necessity for a reduction of these hours, and the high price of starch and coal would make it extremely inconvenient. The workers here never speak of a reduction of the hours. As the work is light, and the heat moderate, there is probably no more favourable work in the trade. The situation is very healthy.

748. GEORGE BUCHANAN and SONS, 95, Candleriggs, Glasgow.—We calender and finish printed and woven cotton goods. We employ about 200 hands, of whom about 60 are females and about 30 lads under 21. Our usual hours are from 6 to 7, with two hours for meals, and we stop on Saturdays at two. Occasionally we have night work for the finishers. The night set consists of some 20 or 30, and that very seldom, just at particular seasons, when there is a particular pressure. We have five stoves, in which heat varies from 80° to 90° . In those the females remain all the working hours.

749. The working at night is forced upon us by the merchants and manufacturers, who send us more goods at certain times, in consequence of the irregularity of the demand upon them.

750. We give our people several days of recreation throughout the year. We adopted this regulation of from 6 to 7, three or four years ago. Before that we worked from 6 to 8.

751. Previously to the last six months, we used to work a great deal of overtime; up to 9, 10, and 12 o'clock; and we had also night-shifts for, perhaps, one half the year, who began at 7 and worked till 6, with one hour for refreshment. About 20 females worked in that night set.

752. The effect of placing us under the same hours as the factories and forbidding night work for females will probably be, that we shall introduce the machinery now coming into use, by which the cloth is stretched and dried, and which can be worked with 6 hands instead of 16, and we should probably employ young men for the night work, and it would then curtail the work for girls.

753. The heat in our stoves is about 100° in one stove, and 110° in the other.

754. When we worked extra hours, we used to think we had done well when we averaged two extra hours per day for twelve days together. This might go on for three months at a time, then there would be three months in which we should be working those hours for two or three weeks together, and then a week with less, perhaps even less than the regular hours. For the other six months of the year we might make on an average "three quarter time."

755. At present, taking the whole year, I should think that our females average 12s. per fortnight the whole year through.

756. If they were to have the factory hours, I should not like to guarantee them above 10s. per fortnight the year through.

757. These girls would be from 16 years of age upwards. Their ages are generally between 18 and 25.

758. [There are two other small works in this business in Glasgow, and they are regulated by the same number of hours as this.]

759. Mr. Smith's Colendering and Finishing Works.—We employ about 60 or 70 people, of whom about nine are females. Our hours are from 6 to 7 at night, and two hours for meals; and we stop on Saturdays at 2. Sometimes when we are very busy we work overtime as late as up to 11. We never work later than 11, and have no night-set. We employ only two boys.

760. Mr. Hutton's Bleaching and Finishing Work, 30, Thirteen-street, Glasgow.—We employ about 40 females and four men. We bleach and finish common cotton goods. Our hours are from 6 to 7, with two hours for meals; and we stop on Saturdays at from 2 to 4.

761. Mr. WILLIAM A. CUNNINGHAM (Messrs. W. Cunningham and Son, Bleachfield, Campsie.)—We bleach and finish muslins, and employ 10 men, 2 boys, and 32 females. Our hours are from 6 to 7, with two hours for meals; and the same hours on Saturday. Before the arrangement of October 1853, we used to work from 6 till 8. We have every night one man and one woman at night work, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m.; they are making goods ready for the next day.

762. Some of the bleach-masters did not come into that arrangement, and it is a disadvantage to us that they should work what hours they like. It is again to them to be able to get through a greater quantity of work than we do who have entered into this arrangement; they could, therefore, do the work at a lower price. But the principal objection is, that by working overhours they can promise to execute an order in a shorter time than we can; therefore, an Act of Parliament is necessary to prevent those who have entered into the arrangement from breaking through it, and thus putting all the rest upon the same footing as ourselves.

763. We have one stove, in which there are generally six or seven females, (of whom two are between 10 and 14) and one man. They are in it during the whole of the working hours. Our working heat ranges from 80° to 110°, and sometimes a little higher.

764. The other drying-place consists of steam-cans, and is of moderate temperature. Several of our women are employed in the bleaching department also.

765. If the factory hours are made general for and adhered to by all the bleach-works, we should not object to them.

766. Mr. McKINLAY, Glenmill, Campsie.—We bleach and finish muslins, and employ 20 men, 2 boys, and 114 females. Our hours of work are from 6 to 7, with an hour and a half for meals, and on Saturday we stop at 3, working 66 hours per week. Before the arrangement of October 1853, we worked 69 hours. We do no night-work with females; and have only one man in addition to the watchman at night.

767. We have two stoves, the average heat in which is from 82° to 85°. The females are allowed to go out for five minutes at three periods of the day, and also whenever they require it. Of the females in the stoves, seven only are under 14.

768. As far as our workers are concerned, I do not think that any legislative interference is required; but it would be more satisfactory that whatever arrangement is made should not be voluntary, as that is liable to be broken through, but by Act of Parliament, which would place all upon the same footing, and, of course, would be enforced. I should not like to adopt 60 hours instead of 66, as we already miss our prices when we come down to 56 hours, and a further increase would, I think, be disadvantageous to the trade in general. At present we are under the additional difficulty of the very high price of starch and coal, together with an advance of wages.

769. Between four and five years ago, I renewed my attempt to establish a school in connexion with these works. It is opened about a quarter past 7, three evenings in the week. I provided books and every other requisite. One of our workmen, who teaches the younger ones, is paid a halfpenny a week from all who attend. About 54 attend. All our female workers are almost exclusively from Ireland. I teach the elder ones, and have a class of from 15 to 18 reading the Bible. I have given them an opportunity of learning, and could wish that more would have taken advantage of it. As our work is light, they have not the excuse of being over-fatigued. If any one can read when she comes in, it is quite an exception; they are exceedingly ignorant.

770. This is the only work in the trade which has an evening school attached to it. I have taken occasion to bring the matter before the other masters, but I believe without effect. I feel sure that if they were better instructed, and had, consequently, some information in their minds to occupy them, we should find them more steady at their work, and they would in every way be more valuable workers. They ought to be considered as in a home, when brought from a distance, as is the common case in the bleach-works, and to be cared for accordingly.

771. Mr. ALEXANDER GOW (Mr. McLean's Yarn Dyeing Works).—I am the manager of these works. We employ about 50 people. Our hours are from 6 to 6, and on Saturdays we begin at 5 and stop at 4, working therefore only 60 hours a week, having two hours every day for meals.

772. The arrangement of work is such that we should be very much thrown out if we were obliged to stop at 2 o'clock on Saturdays. It would allow only 1½ hours a day for meals, and that would break in upon the usual quantities of work which the men can get through at present, and oblige us to divide the bundles of yarn. This might oblige us to put off to the next day finishing a lot of yarn of one colour, and so hinder us the day following. We should object to be kept to our 60 hours a week, unless at 10 hours a day. There ought to be an Act for the 60 hours, as many works go on as many as 90 hours a week. When we have occasion to do more work we take on more hands. As it is all piece-work it would not make any difference to the master if we did a few hours less than the 60 hours per week, provided it was a quantity equal to a quarter of a day; that would be no disadvantage to us. If the people chose to work only 57 hours a week (that is, five days for 10 hours a day and from 6 to 2 on Saturdays, stopping one hour for breakfast), it would not interfere with our arrangements.

773. Mr. LOGAN (Messrs. James Pender and Sons, Cloth, Cotton, and Linnen Bleach-Works).

774. We employ about 40 men, 14 boys, and 16 females, all grown up but one.

775. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 7, with 2 hours for meals; and on Saturday from 5 to 3 with one hour for breakfast; making 63 hours per week. We never work overtime with boys or females.

776. The process of the linen bleaching is similar to that of the cotton with the exception, that we have to expose it to the atmosphere for varying times according to the state of the cloth.

777. The linen bleaching goes on at all times except during three or four months of winter; the frost is the impediment then. The hours for the linen bleaching are just the same as for the cotton.

778. If it should be found desirable to apply the factory hours to the works in this branch of business, and therefore to reduce the hours to 60 a week, it would not interfere with us, provided we had the power of working overtime with females and boys, in cases when we had been impeded during the day by the want of water power or the breakage of machinery.

779. We sometimes have a request from a customer to get a lot of goods forward by the next day, which we can only do by working with a few hands (in the filling for instance,) after the usual hours. We may not receive the letter making this request till the afternoon; perhaps, we might not have more than two or three females whom it might be requisite for us to keep overhours for that purpose; this may occasionally occur. If a general Act forbade the employment of females and boys after 6 o'clock, we should have to put lads or men to that work for that short time.

780. I think it desirable that all parties should be put up on the same footing as to hours. As many bleach-works throughout the country, both in England, Scotland, and Ireland work, overhours, that causes, to the extent of this overwork, a detriment to all those in the same branch. As therefore we work moderate hours, we should be glad to see all obliged to conform to these moderate hours.

781. Our stoves are heated by steam, and the heat when the females and boys are in them is moderate. All the persons in our employ are healthy. It is two years and a half since we commenced the present hours; previously we worked till 5 on the Saturday, the same hours as the other days in the week.

782. ELIZABETH HENDERSON (Mr. Clark's Bleachfield, Burnham, Millsgood).—When Mr. Wilson the manager is not here, I take charge of the work. There are about 36 females and four men employed here, and one boy. Our regular hours are from 6 to 7 with two hours off for meals; and on Saturdays we have only one meal, and begin at 6 and work till 4.

783. One week we may be very slack and another week very busy. When we are very busy we sometimes begin at 1 o'clock upon Sabbath mornings (upon Monday mornings) and work sometimes till 9 o'clock on Monday night, and sometimes even all Monday night, and get home at 6 o'clock on Tuesday morning. We then go home for four hours and come out here again at 10 o'clock and work up till 11 and sometimes till 12 o'clock that night. The next day we should come out at 6 and work the regular hours; that may go on for a few days or a week, and then we should commence, as before, at night-work, going home at 7 in the evening for one hour, and working through the night. We stop from 12 till 1 in the

night for refreshment. It was rather before the new year when we commenced to be so busy, and it has been going on this way up to this time (March 24th).

784. All the females at the works signed the petition for the factory hours, and gave a good deal of money for it.

785. The girls that are kept the longest are the 10 that work in the steam-drying room. It is sometimes very hot in summer.

786. [Mr. Watson returned before I left these works. The above evidence having been read over to him, he assented to its correctness.]

787. Mr. WATSON.—We work the long hours because others do. We think from 6 to 6 quite enough; and if all in our branch of business worked only those hours, we should be glad to do the same.

788. At present those who work long hours take an advantage over those who would be disposed to work short hours, and the competition obliges us to do the same.

789. Messrs. ALLEX. HARVEY and SONS, Govanhaugh Yarn Dye Works.—We employ only eight or nine boys, and only one female. Our usual hours of work are from 6 to 6; very seldom any overtime. The latest hours of work there are from 7 to 8 o'clock. We employ about 45 people altogether.

790. These boys are not employed in connexion with the machinery. It is all hand-work. This is the case with all yarn bleaching and dyeing.

791. The little machinery we have are the hydro-extractors for drying the yarn, and boys are not employed about that. This is a mere fraction of the process, and could be dispensed with altogether.

792. The hydro-extractors will dry as much yarn in four hours as the boys would do in a day, but this is an accidental circumstance. If the demand on us were greater, we should employ more boys.

793. Our yarn is wanted at particular seasons of the year chiefly; we have four seasons in our particular connexion, two for America, and two for London. The merchants cannot give us a longer notice than they do, because they themselves do not know till the last moment what may be wanted for the markets they are called upon to supply. We dye various fancy colours; it is all cotton yarn.

794. We are not obliged to work overtime from the want of hands; the nature of the employment and the wages paid are such that we can always command a supply of hands.

795. The machinery which we employ is of so trifling a nature that we could do away with it at a day's notice. It would be a loss to us to a certain extent to do so, but we might prefer that to the alternative of coming under the operation of an Act for limiting the hours of boys' labour.

796. The other alternative is, that we should have to take into our employment more boys on those occasions when we wanted to work longer hours.

797. The age of our boys is from 13 to 16 and 17. It is very light work, in a room perfectly cool.

798. Mr. McCALLUM, Yarn Dye Works, Govanhaugh.—We employ, when busy, about 150 persons, of whom about 12 to 18 are females, and 24 boys.

799. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6, Saturdays included, with two meal hours. If they like to work from 4 a.m. on Saturday mornings in order to get away at 2 or 3, we do not object to it.

800. We have no objection to the factory hours, and it would not be any great inconvenience to us to have only an hour and a half at meal times instead of two a day as at present, so as to stop on Saturdays at 2.

801. Mr. J. GEMES, Govanbank.—We dye cotton and woollen yarn. We employ about 12 to 15 boys, and one female. It is nearly all entirely hand-work in the dyeing. The only machinery we have is for grinding indigo.

802. Our hours are from 6 to 6, the same on Saturdays. We have hydro-extractors. If we were to be placed under the factory hours, we should be obliged to say to the merchants who wanted us to work overtime, that we could not do it. Overtime is not profitable to us, for we have to pay higher for it.

TURKEY-RED DYE WORKS.

803. Mr. GEORGE GRAHAM (Messrs. Stirling and Sons, Turkey-red Dye Works, Dalquharn, Dumbarton).—I am manager of these works.

804. We employ about 350 hands, of whom about 220 are females, and about 45 boys under 18.

805. Our hours of work are, and have been for the last seven years, from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals. We work the same hours on Saturdays, making in all 60 hours a week.

806. We very seldom make any overtime with women or boys; sometimes with about 14 men.

807. There is nothing in the processes of Turkey-red dyeing which prevents our stopping at these hours, so far as females and boys are concerned.

808. On a very wet day we may have occasion to leave our cloth half an hour longer in the drying-stoves, in consequence of not being able to air them in the field at all.

809. This may happen five or six times in six weeks, or perhaps not so often.

810. In those cases, when we cannot put them into the field to dry partially, we have to put them at once into the stoves, and they then take perhaps an hour or an hour and a half longer to dry.

811. The women and girls have to wait doing nothing until they are ready to be taken out of the stove. They sit in cool rooms waiting.

812. If we did not dry that portion of goods that day, it would disarrange our whole work for the next day.

813. About a third of our females work in the stoves, but are not in for more than 20 minutes at a time. This happens for about four hours and three quarters in the whole, in the course of the day. The temperature in which they are then is about 110°. The stoves are cooled down from 180°, dry heat. The rest of the day they are in cool places, and very lightly employed.

814. No boys work in the warm places.

815. The rest of our females work in cool places, in the bleaching and washing departments and warehouses.

816. The difficulties of stopping at an earlier hour on Saturdays than 6 o'clock are these:

817. It takes 21 processes to complete the dyeing of Turkey-red. Each process occupies a day. Our works are laid out so as to enable us to put a certain quantity of cloth through each process every day. If we were to be obliged to stop on one day before the usual time (say, to lose three hours), we should have to provide additional means of drying; for the principal difficulty lies there. The drying is effected in large stoves, heated by flues. Each stove requires, in order to bring it up to its proper heat, 180 tons of coal. When once brought up to its heat, about 3 tons 15 cwt. of coal per 24 hours are sufficient to keep it up. If we were compelled to stop at 2 on Saturdays, we must have an additional stove for that purpose alone. Besides the original great cost of the building, supposing (by way of illustration) that the stove had been standing doing nothing for a week, it would require perhaps as much as 40 tons to bring it up to the proper heat, and still for three hours' work on Saturday afternoons.

818. But the real working of the restriction would be, that we should have to distribute over the whole week the three hours' work lost on Saturdays.

819. This would require us to add, besides an additional stove and additional making-up houses, 10 men and about 30 females.

820. Besides this, the additional accommodation for washing and finishing, in washing-works and steam power to drive them, would amount to a considerable sum.

821. As regards those occasional wet days which sometimes oblige us to keep the females for half an hour or an hour longer, I think that a little additional accommodation in our works would enable us to get over that. I disapprove of working overtime, and think there is no reason why the Turkey-red dye-works should not, as far as regards females and boys, stop at 6 o'clock, working 60 hours a week. Whatever washing might be required beyond or after those hours, can be done by men. I do think it desirable that females and boys should be restricted to those hours.

822. With respect to the colour of Turkey-red, and the light required to produce a good preparation for the cloth to take the colour, we put it out at about 8 in the morning, and take it in at latest at 5.

823. If it should be a bad day, we must put it into the stove and dry it off hand at once. It is desirable always to spread it out in the air before putting it into the stoves, both for the preparation and for economy of fuel.

824. If the morning is rainy, and it should clear up in the afternoon, we cannot put out more than we can take up by 3 o'clock; otherwise we should disarrange the whole work.

825. I have been for 15 years conversant with Turkey-red dyeing, and the description I have given of processes at these works is applicable to the whole.

826. Mr. CLARK, *Jr.*, Turkey-red Dyers and Print Works, Leven Water.—We employ about 129 men, 83 boys under 18, and 115 females, in our Turkey-red department, under 16, and 100 above that age.

827. The usual hours of work are from 6 to 6.

828. Sometimes we wish to employ a portion of these females and boys between half-past 5 a.m. and half-past 5 p.m., and at other times other portions of them from 7 to 7. The latter is a rarity,—quite an exception.

829. It is on Saturdays that the females themselves wish to begin at half-past 5, in order that they may finish their work earlier in the afternoon; but this is their arrangement, not ours. In the same way it is at times more convenient for them to begin at 7 and end at 7.

830. As far as our operations in the Turkey-red dyeing are concerned, it would not matter to us if we always began at 6 and ended at 6.

831. The workers have a certain quantity to get through, and they do that easily within the 10 hours, having between 6 and 6 two hours for meals.

832. On Saturdays the hours are nominally the same, but the people voluntarily begin a little earlier, and take less time to each meal, so as to have done by 3 to 4 o'clock.

833. I do not see how we could manage if we were compelled to stop at 2 on Saturdays as each lot of goods takes (say) twenty days to finish, and goes through one process per day. Our works are constructed to enable us to do this. If we were only to do seven hours' work on Saturday instead of 10, we should have to do the three hours' work at some other time; and there is no other time for it.

834. We could not do the work of the other three hours with adult male labour.

835. We should be contented to be allowed to work the 60 hours a week if we were not restricted on the Saturday.

836. We have worked these hours for nine or 10 years, ever since this work was established by us; and on Saturday the females and boys as a general thing leave the week between 3 and 4; some may go a little after 3, and a few a little after 4.

837. Mr. W. POLLOCK (Mr. Orr Ewing's Turkey-red Yarn Works, Lower Leven Bank).—I am manager of these works. We employ 28 men, 6 boys, and 36 females when we are in full work.

838. We do all by piece-work. The regular hours are from 6 to 6; but in summer, as we wish to take advantage of the light, we often begin at half-past 5 and get over by half-past 4 to 5 p.m. So in winter we begin at 7 and stop about 4. We have two hours for meals.

839. On Saturdays we have only one meal hour, the breakfast hour, and get the work done at 4 at latest; so that we never exceed 60 hours a week. We commenced this work in June 1851, and the hours have been the same the whole time.

840. The works are arranged so as to do a certain quantity every day. It takes 30 days to dye the yarn till we send it away finished. If we were to be stopped by law at 2 on Saturdays, we should stop all day. We could not do a portion of a day's work, as it would throw out the whole arrangements of the work in all the departments of the manufacture.

841. If we were to be simply restricted to the 60 hours per week we should not care, it would not affect us in the smallest degree.

842. Our stoves are never above 110° when the girls are in them, they are often 90°. The girls are in them about 10 minutes at a time. They are then out for an hour or sometimes more. The yarn-drying is very different from the cloth. The girls here will be only one day in the week in the stoves. They are divided into sets, and take it in turn.

843. ROBE. FLEISCHER, clerk (Mr. Orr Ewing's Turkey-red Dye Works for cloth). [The manager was absent.]—Our hours in summer are from 6 to 6. On Saturdays the females and boys generally stop at about 4 o'clock. The hours of meals are one for breakfast and one for dinner. We never begin earlier than 6 o'clock, and all the work is done by 6 in the evening.

844. In winter we do not begin till 7, we then stop at 5, some earlier. There is then only one meal hour allowed, from 10 to 11. The workpeople generally have something with them by way of refreshment, which they take during the day.

845. When we change the hours from summer to winter, we put up notice to acquaint the people beforehand.

846. The reason for changing the hours is, that we require the light for the preparation of the cloth for dyeing.

847. The stoves are on the ordinary principle used in all the Turkey-red works.

848. Mr. ORR EWING.—We are Turkey-red dyers of cloth and yarn and printers of Turkey-red cloth. We employ upwards of 400 people. Our yarn dye-works are not under the Printers' Act. At these we employ about 100 hands, of whom about 70 are females and boys. For these the hours of labour vary much between winter and summer. In winter, in consequence of the weather, we are sometimes idle for months together. We stopped at the end of last November and began at the end of February. In ordinary years we are not entirely idle more than a month. When the fine weather comes in, we place our yarn in the open air for some hours every day. It may happen that the morning may be unfavourable, in which case we put them out in the afternoon, and make use of as much sun-light as may be serviceable for our purposes. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, Saturdays included, but we allow two hours daily for meals, so that we in fact as a rule only work 60 hours a week. We object to being placed under legislative compulsion to do this, because we so entirely depend upon the season of the year for producing a good colour, and as the processes, which are numerous, must each be finished daily. It takes a month to produce the colour from the time that the yarn is in the grey state. It very rarely happens that our females and boys work any overtime, and then never more than two or three hours, and that seldom more than one day at a time. Such a thing as working 16 or 18 hours a day for weeks together is, in my works, perfectly unknown, and according to my belief in the rest of the trade, the nature of the processes not making it possible.

849. The only hot place which the females and boys have to go into is the stove in the morning, for about three quarters of an hour, taking out the yarn, but the thermometer is not higher than from 80° to 100°. In the evening when they hang the yarn the thermo-

meter will be about 80°, and they are there about the same time as in the morning. All the rest of the day they are either in the open air, or (if the day is bad) under cover, putting the yarn on poles to hang.

850. Mr. FRASER (Messrs. Henry Monteith and Co., Turkey-red Dye and Print Works, Barrowfield, Glasgow).—I am manager of the Turkey-red department of these works. We employ when we are busy, in summer, about 70 men, 120 females and 70 boys.

851. Our regular hours of work in summer are from 6 to 6.

852. Sometimes we have occasion to begin with a portion of the females about 5 o'clock, and they will, as a general rule, have finished by about 5 p.m.

853. If the weather in the morning should be unfavourable, those females might be unemployed for a few hours during the morning, and would have to remain a little longer in the evening. Those will be principally about 10 grown women.

854. The greatest number of our girls are employed in carrying out the cloth and spreading it upon the field, and bringing it in again. It is light work. Each piece of cloth weighs only four pounds on an average. These girls usually begin in summer at from half-past 5 to 6, and usually get over their work about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

855. If the morning should be wet, they have to wait on until it clears. If it clears early enough to enable us to put out the cloth, they do so later in the day, and have to wait till it is sufficiently dry to take in again. They may have to wait as late as 6 or even 7 o'clock, never later, because if the goods are put out later than a certain hour, when the sun gets low, they do not bleach so well.

856. The younger girls may be sometimes two hours in the morning, coming and going, in the stoves, taking out the goods. The heat will be then about 110°.

857. The grown up women are employed, the first thing in the morning, in taking the cloth out of the stoves, which are then about 110°. This takes them about two and a half hours. They then make up the same lot for putting into "liquor." This takes them about two hours. After that they commence hanging the goods again in the stove. The temperature then will be about the same. This will take them from 11 till half-past two; their work is then done for the day. About 40 females are employed in that way.

858. In the summer, when we are most busy, another set at the same sort of work may begin rather earlier and stay rather later, as the process then is dependent on the weather, but in ordinary cases they also have finished by 6 o'clock.

859. The boys are employed in the washing, bleaching, and drying departments, none in the stoves. They are employed not more than 10 hours a day, all the year round.

860. The nature of the Turkey-red dyeing process is, that in summer each lot of girls must go through one process each day. The winter process includes two periods: when the goods are stationary, for a fortnight at one time, and a week at another.

861. The winter process is carried on both summer and winter. The goods are about three weeks going through the summer process, till they are prepared for dyeing. If they are dyed forthwith they may be finished in another week, but can remain for another in that state, and it is customary to prepare the cloth for dyeing in summer, and to dye it in winter; and the reason is, that we can only prepare it for dyeing in fine weather, but can dye it in any weather.

862. The winter process requires about six weeks.

863. The works are so arranged as to enable us to put a certain quantity of cloth through each process per day. We must consequently work the same number of hours on Saturday as any other day. We, however, very rarely work more than 60 hours a week, and only when we are interfered with by weather or by slight interruptions in our machinery. If anything breaks which we cannot repair in two or three hours, the whole of the works stop for the whole day. The next day would have to be devoted to finishing the process which should have been finished the day before.

864. We cannot work overtime with a portion of our people. The females in the making-up room work just the same hours as the rest.

865. Our yarn workers at Blantyre, where we employ about 250 people, are as regards hours of work the same as these. They are less liable to interruptions from weather than the cloth dyeing, and consequently their hours are more regular. The same principles, as regards the processes having to be gone through one each day, apply to the yarn equally with the cloth.

866. [This evidence was given in the presence of Mr. Robert Reid, a partner in these works, and confirmed by him.]

867. Mr. D. MILLER (Turkey-red Dye and Print Works, Springfield, Dalmenack).—We employ about 200 persons in the Turkey-red dyeing departments, including cloth and yarn. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, and as our process is the modern one, we very rarely have occasion to deviate from those hours; indeed, the average, throughout the year, is not more than 56 hours. On Friday, in order to give the people an opportunity of leaving off work a little earlier on Saturday, we endeavour to arrange when we can (which happens at times in the yarn, but very seldom in the cloth) that they should go on a little after 6 in the evening; and on Saturday mornings they always begin at 5, so as to stop at 3, half-past 3, or 4 in the afternoon.

868. We also dye finny yarns, but the hours of work are from 6 to 6, stopping at 3 on Saturdays. The meal hours are two hours a day.

869. Messrs. FLEMING, WATSON, and NAIRN (Turkey-red Yarn Dyers, Little Govan, Glasgow).—We employ about 170 to 200 hands, of whom about a half are females, and about a dozen boys. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6, Saturdays included; and we allow two hours for meals; but on Saturdays we begin at 3 a.m., and have one meal hour from 9 to 10, and then continue on till 3 or half-past 3 or 4, making 60 hours of actual work per week.

870. We should not object to the proposed Bill, but for the interference with the Saturday. We should be very glad of the Bill if it would allow Saturday to be a full day. We should be glad of the Bill because many bleach and dye works work many hours overtime, and only pay the people for one day's work. On Saturday we should want to begin at 5, for the sake of leaving off earlier in the afternoon. The whole work is "turned over" every day, and the process requires a full day. The yarn takes, with us, twenty-one working days to dye. The females are nearly all women.

871. The only machinery we use is for pumping, and grinding madder, and squeezing the water out of the yarn.

872. If any Bill is passed it ought to give us liberty to begin at 5, in order to take advantage of the weather, and to continue till 7 if the weather should be unfavourable during the day.

873. If we had this liberty we would rather have the Bill than not, as it would prevent others working overtime.

874. The females are only in the hot stoves a few minutes at a time for not more than an hour in the day, perhaps only half an hour in all in the stove during the whole day. The rest of the day they are either out in the open air, or in sheds, or working the yarn.

875. JAMES NUTTALL (manager of the oiling operations of Mr. Steiner's Turkey Red-dye Works, Accrington, Lancashire). We have 107 men and boys in the oiling place. Of these, 34 are between 8 and 13, and are under the Print Works Act. There are altogether about 60 between 8 and 18.

876. We begin work in the oiling place at 6 a.m., and we generally leave off at 4, 5, and 6. It never exceeds 6.

877. We stop from time to time, so that every one has plenty of time to get their meals, but the nature of the process is such that it must go on without stopping. The first thing we do in the morning is, to put the oiled cloth into the stove. A quantity of this cloth is made ready for us the day before. It lies all night oiled. In cold weather it will lie there without any danger. In hot weather, the last thing the men do in the evening, is to air them. The watchmen during the night watch the cloth, and if they find it heating, they call the men, and it is immediately pulled over the rollers to cool. The boys go home at or before 6 every day. The men stay if it is necessary to air the cloth.

878. JAMES ASHWORTH.—We have in the mordant room seven lads about 18, and six boys between 8 and 13; between 13 and 18 there are 11.

879. I have been in the mordant room 21 years. I have superintended it about 15 years. The hours are from 4 a.m. to 9 p.m., the longest; generally they do not come till half-past 4 to 5, and generally leave off at half-past 8 to 9.

880. We have done in the stove rooms about half-past 9, taking out the dry cloth. The stoves are cool then. We then have breakfast. At a quarter to 10 we start the machines, and go on till 12, and then commence again with the machines from 1 to 7; but about 4 we take half an hour for tea. Then we fill the stoves again from 7 to 8.

881. Of the 16 boys, four work in the upper part of the room; the thermometer is 100° in summer, and 80° in winter. It is hot from 1 to 7. It need not be hot; it can be made quite cool with a little ventilation. I have been at work in this room 15 years.

882. It is necessary for us to work from 4 or half-past 4 a.m. to 9 p.m., in order to keep straight with the processes that come after us. They go from us to the dye house, and come to us from the oiling operations. It takes many days in the oiling department, perhaps a fortnight; and when the cloth has been finished in the oiling department, it comes to us. We do in the mordant room enough in the day to keep the whole of the dyes at work the next day.

883. The machinery we use is for passing the pieces through the mordant; after that they go into the stoves.

884. The hours of work which I have mentioned (from 4 or half-past 4 till 9) have been going on since the beginning of last year; we were slack before that, about twelve months; and at that time we did not get more than five or six hours a day sometimes.

885. We reckon regular work to be a lot of cloth a day. It takes us from half-past 4 a.m. to 9 at night to do this. We have worked these hours the greatest part of last year.

886. If there were more machinery, another stove, and more hands, the lot could be done in quicker time; but, as it is, we sometimes have part of the machinery idle.

887. ENOCH GRIMSHAW.—I superintended the dye-house. The dyers come in the morning at 6 o'clock, sometimes they come at 5. They generally leave off at 8, but sometimes we go on from 6 a.m. to 10 at night. This happens when we do not get our usual supply of blood from Liverpool. We require five hogheads of blood a day (bullocks', sheep's, and calves' blood). To supply this, upwards of 100 head of cattle must be slaughtered. We can only get it from the Slaughter-house Company at Liverpool. Before that company started (16 or 18 years ago), we had to collect it from all the little butchers in the country by small casks full. It was very impure, and the supply irregular. There are 80 men and boys in the dyeing department, of these about 60 are under 18; there are 45 between 8 and 13, and 15 between 13 and 18. The short-timers come at 6, and sometimes those above 13 come at 5 and stay, as the men do, till 10 and 11. When we have plenty of blood to go on with, we work till 10 and 11; this is in order to make up for time lost when blood has run short. From the month of August up to March and April it will be difficult to get; there is in winter a demand for it in Liverpool for other purposes. Generally speaking, in the summer we are on the premises about 14 hours, and sometimes from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. to make up for lost time; but during those hours there are many stoppages; we have to wait until the work is ready to come out of the dye vessels. The cloth is in the dye-vessels about three hours at a time. It requires 12 boys to watch the dye-vessels, looking through the glass plates to see if the pieces are running in regular order, the rest have nothing to do during those three hours. Those 12 rest an hour and a half when that lot is taken out, until the vessels are filled again. The vessels are filled three times in the course of the day, when we are working long hours; we should then be 14 to 15 hours on the premises, and the 12 boys who watch the vessels are always resting an hour and a half after each time of emptying them. These are always the same boys. The boys employed in emptying and filling are only busy four and a half hours in each day. They are too young for any other operation.

888. All these boys between 8 and 13 are under the operation of the Print Works Act.

889. There are no children employed in the other processes, except in the making-up and packing-room.

890. [JAMES PIERKINGTON. I am a headman of the finishing-room. We have four women and 5 little girls, and three men. Our general hours are from half-past 6 a.m. to about half-past 7 at night; but when we are not very busy we stop at 6.]

891. STATEMENT as to the effect of the BILL on the TURKEY-RED DYERS, who (in consequence of the tedious nature of the process) are very few in number.

892. The following is Mr. Steiner's case:

893. Mr. Steiner is a Turkey-red dyer, and a printer of Turkey-red pieces, and carries on business at Church, near Accrington, in Lancashire.

894. In addition to those pieces which he prints, a considerable quantity are dyed by him both by commission and for sale. He employs a considerable number of children under 10 years of age, and many females and young persons under 18 years of age, in his dyeing and printing works, and they are under the superintendence of the inspectors and sub-inspectors of factories by virtue of the provisions of the Act 8 and 9 Vict. cap. 23, being an Act to regulate the labour of children, young persons, and females in print works. This is in consequence of his being both a printer and a Turkey-red dyer. The Interpretation Clause of that Act is to the effect that any person employed in printing, or in any incidental printing process, comes within the meaning of that Act; the same Clause states that the words "incidental printing process" shall be taken to mean any process of preparing, dyeing, bleaching, cleansing, calendering, &c., carried on within any building, shed, &c., adjacent to each other, or forming part or parts of the establishment where the chief portion of printing, &c., is carried on.

895. By the Bleaching, &c., Works Bill, now before the House of Commons, entitled "An Act to regulate the Employment of Females, Young Persons, and Children in Bleaching, Finishing, and Dyeing Works," Mr. Steiner will be very seriously affected, as well as all other Turkey-red dyers.

896. The provisions of the proposed Act prohibit the employment of children, and limit the hours of employment of females, and young persons under 18 years of age, from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening on all days but Saturday, and on that day from 6 in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and a stated allowance is to be made during those periods for meals. Turkey-red dyeing is not an arduous employment, but the process is a very tedious one, requiring extreme care and regularity, and constant attention, as the goods whilst in operation are liable to heat, and if neglected will ignite, and notwithstanding all due vigilance are liable to spontaneous combustion. In fact Mr. Steiner, notwithstanding all his attention, has had a great number of fires in his establishment. The employment of children is not in the least tollerable; their duties are merely to watch the goods whilst the process is in course of operation, and this is only required occasionally, during the regular working hours; consequently the children are at play a great portion of their time; yet it is necessary they should be within call when wanted.

897. There is also another particular feature in Mr. Steiner's case, and that is, if labour is prohibited and limited, as proposed by the Bill, it will be absolutely ruinous to the

process; inasmuch as goods in operation left over night, or for a much less period in particular stages, would injure the colour, and so render the goods worthless, it being necessary that the process when commenced must be continued until completed; and as the hours of working on Saturdays are limited to 2 o'clock p.m., the Bill would of necessity make the working week in Turkey-red dye-works to consist of five days only; inasmuch as it would not be practicable to commence the process on a Saturday if limited to 2 o'clock.

898. On reference to the preamble of the present Bill, it would appear that it is intended to exempt persons from its operation who are within the provisions of the 8 & 9 Vict. before referred to, and, as before stated, Mr. Steiner's dye-works have been under that regulation. Yet it would appear that, as far as relates to dyeing not incidental to printing, that is, dyeing goods by commission and for sale without printing, then Mr. Steiner's will be within the present Bill; therefore he will be under two Acts limiting labour, both different in their provisions. And there is no doubt that if Turkey-red dyes are not excepted from this Bill, the trade of Turkey-red dyeing will be driven to those countries where its already too tedious operations will not be subject to any legislative interference.

IRELAND.

CHIEFLY LINEN BLEACH WORKS.

899. Mr. ALEX. HUNTER, DUNMURRY Bleach-Works, Belfast.—I bleach linen only, and employ about 40 hands, of whom none are females and only one boy. The usual hours are from 6 to 6, or rather seldom beyond 4, except the housemen who work at night. I have no stove here; but at Derranight, near Lisburn, I have one, but it is not now in use. The females there worked almost invariably from 6 to 6 only, with an hour and half for meals; Saturdays the same. I employed there from 14 to 18. It will be at work again when trade improves.

900. I should prefer that adult females, say of 30 years old and upwards, should be at liberty to work as many hours as they could agree for with their employers. They are generally quite equal to constant work, and if they have a family by that time the eldest daughter can take care of the younger children. There is no difficulty hereabouts in getting female labour, it is a very populous neighbourhood.

901. As we have occasion sometimes in summer to work overhours, and as females only can do the work in the stove, I should like that females above 30 years old should have the power of working occasionally (say) not exceeding two or three hours after 6 p.m. (beginning not before 6 a.m.). This would obviate a great many objections.

902. I think at the same time that, if there is to be an Act for England and Scotland, Ireland ought not to be exempt.

903. I see no objection to having relays of females if each relay did not continue at work longer than 10 hours in every 24. I consider it hard upon the capitalist, while exposed (as he is) to the competition of foreign countries, to keep his capital idle 13½ hours out of the 24. The objection to females working at night does not apply in country places like this. These remarks embody my opinions upon the subject.

904. Messrs. RICHARDSON & Co., LAMBEG Bleach-Works, Lisburn.—We bleach linen only, and employ in a slack time like the present about 300 people, of whom 136 are females and about a dozen boys.

905. The females are chiefly employed in the stoves finishing handkerchiefs. Their usual hours of work are from half-past 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., with intervals of 2½ hours for meals and rest. On Saturdays they begin at the same time and stop at 2 o'clock. The temperature of the stoves ranges from 80° to 100°. Our working heat is 90°; occasionally it will get up higher, but very rarely, depending upon the weather, and the ventilation, which is regulated by the overlooker in the room. Our object is to keep the atmosphere dry, and the heat at 90°.

906. The boys are principally employed on the grass, and leave work at from half-past 5 to 6, beginning at half-past 5, except in winter, when they come and go with the daylight unless when stopped by frost or snow.

907. The hours are regulated by the town clock of Belfast.

908. We seldom, if ever, had an accident from our machinery. When we consider it dangerous we box it off.

909. We have an infant school, a boys' school, and a girls' school, built and supported by ourselves. We have a contribution in books from the Church Education Society. We pay ample salaries to the masters and mistresses; and give them houses furnished and rent-free, so as to secure the services of superior teachers.

910. We make it a rule not to employ boys under 14, and we insist upon our own work-people sending their children to school.

911. In winter we are liable to be stopped altogether for weeks continuously by frost and snow. We are obliged after that to work up lost time, as cloth will have accumulated. We, therefore, on such occasions work overtime up to 8 or 9 o'clock from three to five

consecutive days during a month or six weeks. This depends upon the length and severity of the previous winter. But although the last winter was both long and severe, we have made such arrangements as will prevent the necessity of our working the females overhours at all for the future.

912. As we allow our women in the stoves $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for meals and rest, their net hours of work are only 10.

913. As to the boys employed in the field, it may happen in consequence of the irregularity of the weather that they may not begin their work till late in the day, and remain late in consequence, rarely beyond 7.

914. This irregularity of the field-work does not interfere with the stove-work so as to keep them over 6 o'clock. It interferes with the boiling-work where we have no boys.

915. The females never start at all unless they can begin at the breakfast hour at the latest.

916. Mr. JONATHAN RICHARDSON (partner in Messrs. J. N. Richardson, Sons, & O'wden's Glenmore Bleach-Works, Lisburn).—We bleach linen cloth only. We employ 165 males (of whom about 30 are boys under 18) and 300 females.

917. The regular hours of work are from 6 a.m. to half-past 6 p.m., off two hours for meals, and we stop on Saturdays at 3 o'clock. These are the hours for the whole establishment.

918. Nearly all the boys are employed in the field in taking up the pease, and unravelling the pieces. We rarely work extra hours, and when they do it may be up to half-past 8 p.m.; but it is rare to keep the boys up to that time.

919. We have had occasion to keep the females overtime for an evening or two in the week, but we avoid it if possible, as we find it is not profitable. Within the last year they may have been employed overtime about 50 or 60 evenings; sometimes a few later. There are 21 between 12 and 14 years of age, and four between 11 and 12.

920. The working temperature which we endeavour to maintain is 90° ; it is not advantageous that it should be hotter; the temperature will occasionally increase from accidental causes. When you were in the stove it was 100° and 101° , but it was the first warm day, and the heating had not been adjusted to the change of weather.

921. There are not more than eight or nine linen bleach-works in Ireland where there are stoves, and we probably employ nearly half the number of females to be found in them.

922. Messrs. J. and W. CHARLEY & Co., Linen Bleach-Works, Seymour Hill, Belfast.—We do not employ females, and only a few boys, and they have generally done their work by 4 p.m. We employ about 80 people.

923. GEORGE THOMPSON (Mr. Robert Howey's Bleaching and Dyeing Works, Old Park, Belfast).—I am foreman of the "lapping" (making-up) room at these works.

924. We have eight females in the making-up room. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6, but when the trade demands it we go on till 10, and sometimes all night, with the same set of hands, but not more than one night at a time, and this happens very seldom; sometimes we may have to go on two or three nights following till 10, sometimes for a whole week. In the beginning of 1853 we were very busy, all March, April, and May, and then we had for a good part of that time to go on to all hours, up to 10 o'clock, and all night. If there were to be another busy time we should have to do this again.

925. Again in the autumn, in preparing for the spring trade, we are liable to have these busy seasons, and to work on the same manner as in the spring. When there is work to do there is no limit of time.

926. The work is hooking and making-up.

927. When we have much work, we have about a dozen females in the room, and two boys.

928. Mr. McNAUGHTEN (Mr. Robert Howey's Printing, Bleaching, and Dyeing Works, Old Park, Belfast).—I am manager of this establishment. We bleach linen and cotton.

929. We employ 20 females in the stove from 14 years of age upwards. The hours are from 6 to 6; occasionally they are employed half a night, i.e., up to 10 o'clock. This is done as seldom as possible, and depends upon the pressure of business. It is only when there is a pressure through the whole establishment that this goes on at night till 10 o'clock, and it is never to my knowledge later. It must happen about the same seasons of the year as has been described for the lapping room.

930. The temperature in the stove is about 100° . This is hot air, consequently it is far less prejudicial to health than steam heat. We had steam heat in the stove, but found the hot air both more profitable and much more healthy for the people.

931. In the bleaching establishment we have none but adults.

932. The dyeing establishment is connected with the print works, and comes under the Print Works Act.

933. We have beetling machines, but do not employ females at them.

934. Mr. JAMES GRAHAM (Mc. Wm. Ewart & Son, Glentank Linen Bleach-Works, Belfast).—I am manager of these works.

935. We employ only 24 females in the stove. The regular hours are from half-past 6 a.m. to half-past 6 p.m. all the year round, allowing two hours and 20 minutes for meals and rest. The temperature is kept at 90° as near as we can. It is steam heat. We have no extra hours in the stove. No girls are fit to work in this heat longer than the regular hours. If we have more work to do, we put on extra hands to our other frames.

936. We have three females in the mangling house, who work from 6 to 8.

937. We have only a few boys in the beetling house, and they are near the age of 18.

938. We finish cotton goods in the beetling, as well as linen.

939. Mr. J. F. FERGUSON'S Linen Bleach-Works.—We employ about 20 to 30 people, no females. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6 regularly.

940. We have no boys in the beetling, and only two in the bleaching. We have no stove.

941. Mr. FERGUSON'S, of White Rock, is a similar establishment to ours; he has no stove, and employs no females.

942. Mr. JOHN ROBERTS, Collin Green Linen Bleach-Works, Lishara.—I employ no females, and only four boys. The boys are not employed at night, except very occasionally, when we have a press of work.

943. Mr. JAMES FERGUSON & SONS, New Forge Green, Belfast.—We bleach linen and linen yarn. Our regular hours in summer are from 6 to 6, from February to November.

944. We employ, when we are busy, about 60 females and 60 men, only six boys. Six of the females are at times employed all night,—mostly about three months in the winter. They are in the stoves moving the yarn. Two men are employed with them. If an Act passed forbidding the employment of females at night, we should employ four men instead of those six females. The boys are about 15, they are never employed at night, and never, scarcely, after 6. They gather the pins on the green. We do not want boys after 6, they can get through their work before.

945. We have never any overtime but from November to February, the females work from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

946. If we were not to be allowed to continue those hours for the females, but were permitted to employ them from 7 to 7, we should not begin till 8, they would then breakfast before they came, and we should then stop at 7 p.m. without inconvenience. We allow two hours for meals. We work the same hours on Saturdays as any other day, but they generally get over their work earlier, about 4.

947. Mr. G. PELAN, manager (Mr. Wallace), Glengormly Linen Bleach-Works.—We employ one female, and no boys whatever. We employ about 30 people altogether.

948. Mr. BRILL (Messrs. Fenton, Son, & Co., Hyde Park Linen and Cotton Bleach-Works).—These works commenced a year ago. We employ altogether about 150 people, of whom 57 are females; we employ very few boys, our work is too heavy for them.

949. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, allowing two hours for meals. The hours on Saturdays are nominally the same, but they leave off earlier. We have only worked overtime during a portion of one week, when the females worked all one night, and part of two other nights. The trade has been slack. If it were to be brisk, we might very possibly work as late as 9 o'clock, as long the presses lasted; but we consider long hours undesirable for the masters, as the work is not properly done. When we work overtime it has been to oblige customers, and not for our own profit.

950. The temperature in the stoves where the females work is from 85° to 96°. We have made preparations for employing as many as 100 females, if the state of the trade requires it.

951. We employ no females in the beetling houses.

952. Mr. GUERAN, Mr. O'HARA, manager (Mr. Gray's Linen Bleach-Works, Gray Mount, Belfast).—We employ about 60 people; no females or boys in the bleaching department, but in the "lugging room" we have five under 18.

953. Occasionally, when trade is brisk, we employ these boys late in the evening, sometimes up to 8 and 10 o'clock and after; occasionally for several weeks together.

954. Mr. BRADY (Messrs. Brady and Dobson, Cotton Mount, Belfast).—We bleach and finish linen and muslin, worked and plain. We employ about 280 persons, of whom about 146 are females and about 40 boys. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 7, with about two hours for meals and rest.

955. The females and boys are principally employed in the stoves, of which we have four, the temperatures in which are about 85°, 90°, 95°, and 110° respectively.

956. It occasionally happens, when there is a press of work, that we employ one set of females (five, from 3 p.m. to 6 a.m.). They work in one of the stoves with a man and a boy.

957. It occasionally also happens, about once in two or three months, that all the females are required to work till about 9 o'clock. We do not wish it, but we do so to oblige our

customers. From 6 to 7 is as long as we like to have them employed. As we give them two hours for meals and rest, if an Act were to pass limiting the hours to between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., with an hour and a half for meals, it would not make any material difference to us.

958. Of the total number of females, between 20 to 30 are from about 13 to about 16. A few boys only are in the stoves; they are principally employed in the wet department.

959. I am not aware that there is any other muslin bleach green in Ireland, except this and Mr. Bell's, at Ballyclare.

960. Mr. JOSEPH LINDSAY (Mr. John L. Bell, Ballyclare).—I am the manager of these works. We bleach fine muslins only, worked and plain (for ladies' collars, &c.). We employ about 150 people, of whom about 100 are females, and about a dozen boys.

961. Our regular hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., with two hours for meals and rest.

962. At present we are working from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., as trade is slack. When trade is brisk, as it was about a year ago, we sometimes had occasion to go on for a fortnight or a month together up to 8 and 9 o'clock, but the people are paid extra for that; the females make from 7d. to 10d. per day, and if they work overtime they are paid in proportion; 2½ hours overtime would come to 1½d. or 2d., and up to 3½d. They are quite willing to give this. The temperature of the stoves where they work is 90°; this is the regular working heat, and we keep it as near that as possible.

963. At those times when we are very busy we sometimes have a set that works at night from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. There might be 20 females in that set, and one boy. We would much rather not work overhours, as the people are not so fit for their work the next day.

964. In the making-up room, where there are eight females, they work the extra hours when the rest do.

965. In the hot stove-room, where there are about 70 females, I do not think there are more than eight girls between 12 and 16, and the rest are chiefly between 16 and 20; some few are grown up women. In the airing-rooms, which are not so hot, they are mostly grown up women; in the hot "branding" stoves, where the muslin is pulled and stretched to make it even, they are mostly the young ones.

966. Mr. HENRY MARTIN, manager (Messrs. Thomas and Charles Richardson, Springfield, Lurgan).—We bleach and finish cambric handkerchiefs only, and employ 39 females and about 24 men.

967. Our hours for the females are from half past 7 a.m. to half past 6 p.m.; but oftener they have done at 6.

968. We very seldom have any extra time in the stoves, only when trade happens to be very brisk, but then not later than 8, and that not often. The only night work is at the beetles, but we have no females there. There is only one boy on the works.

969. Mr. NICHOLSON, Donaghue, Lurgan.—We only employ three females, and one or two boys; occasionally we have a few girls employed in the stove drying handkerchiefs, but they do not work overtime.

970. Mr. FENNELL, Banbridge.—I finish cambric handkerchiefs. I employ about 40 females in the stove-room. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with 1½ hours for meals; and we leave off on Saturdays at half-past 2.

971. We seldom work overtime, unless a press of goods comes in. We have room enough to extend the number of hands in case of necessity.

972. The temperature of the stove is 90°. The age of the youngest girls is between 12 and 13; but we have very few so young.

973. Mr. ROBINSON, Ballydown Cambric Bleach-Works, Banbridge.—I employ between 40 and 50 females, who work chiefly in the stove; and about 15 to 20 men. The regular hours of work are from 6 to 6 in summer, though seldom so long; and in winter from daylight to dark. The temperature of the stoves is 80° on an average. Sometimes we work overtime, but not as a general thing, only when we have a quantity of cloth to get ready by a certain day. In those cases we may go on till 8 or 9 o'clock, seldom later. We never like night work, as the work is not so well done, and we sometimes have to do it over again.

974. The few boys we have (about 10 in all) are employed upon the field, and have generally done work from 8 to 6.

975. In the "lapping" room the hours are the same as in the stoves, but we seldom work overhours there. We have no regular set of females in that room; when they are wanted we bring them from the stoves.

976. [Mr. Crawford has a linen bleach-works above, but they do not employ females, and only a few boys on the field. About 18 or 16 people employed.]

977. Mr. JOHN MULLEN, foreman (Mr. Hill, Linen Bleach-Works, Banbridge).—We employ about 20 people; no females or boys.

978. Messrs. JOHN SMITH, WEIR, & Co., Linen Cloth Bleach-Works, Milton, Banbridge.—We employ no females, and only one boy. We only bleach heavy goods.

979. Mr. WM. MEIK, fireman (Mr. Hayes, Millmount, Banbridge).—We bleach linen cloth and diapers, and employ about 30 people, of whom four are boys under 18. We employ no females.

980. The boys are employed in beetling engines, and when required they take their night turn every other night with the men.

981. The usual hours of work are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals, and the same on Saturdays.

982. Mr. M'CLELLAND, Borville, Banbridge.—We bleach linen cloth only, and employ no females, and only one boy.

983. Messrs. J. & W. UPRITCHARD.—We bleach linen cloth, diaper, and damask, and employ about 90 people, of whom only three are females, and about 14 boys.

984. Ten of the boys are employed in the beetling machines, and work time and half-time turn and turn about, i.e., every other night. They begin work at 6 a.m. and work to 6 p.m. for the regular day; every other night they go on till 6 the next morning, but have only occasion to attend to the machines for half an hour in every three. They can sleep the rest of the time. Six are from 13 to 16, and four from 16 to 18.

985. In the "lapping" room we have four females, neither of them very young. They do not work extra hours one night in a month, even when trade is brisk.

986. My opinion is, that as the boys at the beetling machines at night have so much time to sleep, it is not injurious to them.

987. Messrs. HOUGHTON and FENKELL, Banford Green, Gifford.—We bleach linen cloth, cambric handkerchiefs, and other kinds. We are general linen bleachers. We employ about 70 people, of whom 11 are boys under 18, and one female.

988. The works go on at night, and the boys take their turn every other week. The regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals.

989. The night-work is chiefly in the beetling machines and in the washing department.

990. On Saturdays the hours are the same.

991. The men average 2s. a day at task work (beetling), spreading cloth; the day men 15s.; the boys from 8s. to 1s.

992. Mr. PELAN, manager (Mr. Herring's Cambria Handkerchief Finishing Works, Waring-town, Lurgan).—We finish cambric handkerchiefs only, and employ about 24 females in the stoves. Our regular hours of work are from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in winter, with two hours for meals, and half an hour besides at the hours of 11 and 5, for rest; so that the working hours are only 10 a day. The heat in the stoves for the lighter kinds of goods is about 90°, but for the heavier goods 95°. On Saturdays they leave off at 5.

993. We rarely work overtime, only when required to execute a shipping order, when we may work till 12 o'clock at night. They are paid for half a day extra for 3 hours work, as they rest an hour at 5.

994. We have only two boys.

995. In our "lapping" room, we have four or five females, and 10 or 12 boys; we employ 75 people altogether. In the lapping room we work overhours when we require it, at the same time generally as in the stoves. The lapping room is about 160 yards from the stove room, only on separate premises, but making a part of the same business.

996. We do not bleach at all. The only machinery we have is a blanching mangle and two beetling engines. The latter go at night sometimes, and four boys attend them with the men. We prefer working only till 12 at night instead of all night, when night-work is required.

997. Mr. JOHN KIRK (Wm. Kirk, M.P. and Son, Linen Merchants and Bleachers, Azealdale, Keady).—We bleach and dye linen cloth only, and employ about 400 people, of whom 40 are boys under 18 working in the bleaching works, attending beetling machinery, and 14 apprentices in the lapping room. The apprentices very rarely work any overtime, except at very busy times; most of them are very nearly 18 years of age; we do not like to have boys under 15 in any branch of our work.

998. The hours of work for the boys in the beetling machinery are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals; their work is not constant; they are an hour together at their work, are then an hour waiting until the beams are ready to be changed; they work, therefore, only 7 hours in the 12.

999. Every alternate month they take the night work, the machinery going constantly from Monday morning till Saturday night. Their hours of work at night are the same as in the day.

1000. They are all paid by the day, according to their merit; boys from 6d. to 3d. per day.

1001. At some works (but not in this neighbourhood) they are paid by the job, and are consequently liable to work overtime.

1002. We have no females in our employment, except two who mark the cloth.

1003. At our dye-works we have only two boys, attending the hooking rollers.

1004. The only effect as regards ourselves of an Act passing which should prevent night-work for boys would be, that we should dispense with the labour of half the boys, which we should consider a disadvantage to themselves and their parents.

1005. We should keep the boys for the day-set, and substitute a less number of men for the night-set.

1006. This is the third or fourth largest bleaching work in Ireland; the other large ones are, the Messrs. Richardsons', of Lambeg and Glenmore; the Messrs. Barclays', of Mullaghmore, near Ballymoney; and Mr. Chaine's, of Antrim.

1007. [The only other bleach-works in this neighbourhood are Messrs. KIDD's, Mr. WYNN's and Mr. STEPHENS's, a very small work employing about 12 men.]

1008. Mr. KIDD (Messrs. Kidd and Son, Dundrum, Keady).—I employ no females, only 10 or 12 boys. Those whom I do employ are at the beetling engine, and part of them will work the night set; but we have recently introduced a mode of turning the beams which enables us to dispense with boys nearly altogether; we find men better for us. I employ about 150 people altogether.

1009. Mr. WYNN, Lisler, Armagh.—I only employ one boy at night; this is at the beetling engine. I have no females employed, except one marking cloth.

1010. I employ about 70 people altogether.

1011. Mr. CHAINE, Muckamore Linen Bleach-Works, Antrim.—Our hours of work are very seldom so long as from 6 to 6. We have very few boys; they are never employed more than that; seldom so long.

1012. We do not employ females; we have no boys employed at night.

1013. I employ altogether 174 people in the bleaching department.

1014. We dye as well, but we have not a boy or female employed in the dye-works.

1015. Mr. WALLACE, Dunadry Dyeing Works, Belfast.—I dye and finish linen and cotton goods. I have no boys under 18 years of age, nor any females. The beetling engines go on at night, but I never employ boys at them at night. I employ from 80 to 100 people altogether. The regular hours of work are from 6 to 6.

1016. [Mr. MACCAULAY's works and Mr. KERR's, at Randalstown, are similar establishments to this one, and do not employ boys under 18, or females.]

1017. Mr. HUNTER, Linen Dyeing and Finishing Works, Islandraigh, Dunadry, Antrim.—We employ no boys or females at night-work. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6. We have only two boys at our three establishments. We employ about 50 people altogether; we have a making-up room, but only one man employed in it.

1018. Mr. DICKEY, Ballymena Linen Bleach-Works.—I employ about 60 people altogether, and only one or two are females; merely at making-up, but never at night; and have no boys at all. We have only one boy in the making-up room, but no females.

1019. Mr. MORAN (Mr. W. Gihon and Sons, Lennafillan Bleach and Dye Works, Ballymena).—We employ about 100 people, of whom only two or three are females, and three boys under 18. These are very rarely employed much after 6.

1020. Mr. YOUNG, Linen and Dyeing Works, Ballymena.—We employ no females, and only two boys, who are not employed at the beetling later than 9 o'clock at night. We employ from 40 to 50 people altogether.

1021. Messrs. BARCLAY, Mullaghmore, Ballymoney.—We employ when busy about 60 people altogether. We bleach linen and cambric handkerchiefs. We have only about eight boys under 18 at the beetling engines. These boys go to work at 5 or 6 a.m., and go on to 5 or 6 p.m. These are the regular hours, during which they have frequent short intervals, when they are not required,—intervals of from half an hour to four hours each, according to the nature of the finish required. It is, therefore, exceedingly light and easy work, and they are not exposed in any way to wet or cold.

1022. We very seldom have occasion to employ them later than these hours; we have, in fact, very little night-work in the course of the year. When they work at night, they have longer intervals of rest than during the day.

1023. As regards our works, the effect of limiting the hours of boys at a beetling engine would be, that we should dispense with them altogether by a very simple application of machinery. We should have no difficulty in supplying their places by boys above 18.

1024. We employ about 50 females. These very seldom work overtime. Their hours in summer are from 6 to 6; in winter, from daylight or from 8 o'clock to 4 or 5 p.m., as a general rule. That is in the stove room, and the same applies also to the rest. The heat in the stove is about 90°; that is the temperature we endeavour to maintain.

1025. Messrs. BENNETT and ADAMS, Linen Bleach-Works, Ballymoney.—We employ about 40 people altogether. We bleach linen only, and employ only three boys under 18, and three females.

1026. The boys are employed at the beetling engines, and begin work at 6 a.m. and generally stop at 6; but taking the year round, on an average, for about two days in the week they make a day and a-half, working, therefore, till 11 p.m., but with frequent intervals of rest; three-fourths of the whole time they are waiting until the engine has done its work.

1027. Mr. ADAMS, jun., Gorton Bleach-Works, Ballymoney.—I only employ three boys and no females; and at present only a few men. The boys are employed at the beetling engines, and they work at night; but, by arrangements with each other, they have a great portion of every night for rest.

1028. Messrs. HEMPHILL, HUNTER, and Co., Linen Manufacturers and Bleachers, Greenfield, Ballymoney.—We employ about 30 people altogether; we only employ three or four boys, and no females. The boys from 12 to 14 and 16 years of age. They begin work at 6 a.m., and go on till 10 p.m., when there is a press of work; sometimes, on rare occasions, to 11 every alternate night.

1029. Mr. JAMES HAYNA (Messrs. Carey, McClelland, and Co., Ardmore Bleach-Works, Londonderry).—Mr. McClelland is absent. We employ about 80 people altogether. We bleach linen and cotton goods; we do not employ any females, only about 12 or 13 boys, under 18; but they have generally done their work before 6 o'clock, and are not employed at night, except occasionally one or two at the wash-mills. They begin at 6 p.m., and leave off at 6 a.m. Just two do this nearly constantly. They change week about with the day set. They may be one about 15 and the other about 17. They have been at this work a few months.

1030. We have also five boys in the lapping room. They begin work at 6 a.m., and generally leave off at half-past 6 p.m.; sometimes it is a little before that, sometimes a little after. When we are very busy, they go on up to 8 and 9 o'clock, and later than that some odd times in the winter, when we are busy preparing cloth for shipment. It might be once or twice during a month that they are kept all night. In years when the trade has been very good, they have been kept up one night in a week, but that would not last many weeks, and they have the next day at home. We have no females in the lapping room.

1031. This is the only bleach-work in this part of the country. Mr. O'NEIL's work is stopped. The two bleach-works near Spamount, 20 miles off, are small works, of the same nature as this.

IRELAND.

1032.—BLEACHING AND FINISHING WORKS.

	Wenters and Finishers of what description of goods.	Number of people employed.	Number of females employed.	Number of boys employed.	Usual Hours of Work.	Time allowed for meals and rest.	Overtime for females and boys.	Temperature of Stoves, where in use.
Mr. Alexander Hunter, Dunmurry, Belfast.	Linen-cloth.	40	None.	1	A.M. P.M. 6 to 6	1½		REG. FAN.
Mr. Alexander Hunter, Denagh.	Works not now in use.	—	18 when works in use.					
Messrs. Richardson & Co. Larnbeg, Lisburn.	Linen-cloth, and Irish cambric handkerchiefs.	300	136	12	6½ to 6	2½	Occasionally in winter to 8 or p.m.	80 to 100, generally 90
Messrs. Richardson & Ordean, Glensmore, Lisburn.	Linen-cloth, and handkerchiefs.	463	300	20	6 to 6½	2	Occasionally to half-past 8.	Working temperature 80
Carried forward -		803	454	33				

	Branches and Fashions of what descrip- tion of goods.	Number of people employed.	Number of females employed.	Number of boys employed.	Usual Hours of Work.	Time allowed for meals and rest.	Overhours for females and boys.	Temperature of Street, where in use.
Brought forward - - -	- - -	805	454	33	A.M. P.M.	RES.		REG. FAHR.
Messrs. J. & W. Charley & Co., Seymour-Hill, Belfast.	Linens-cloth	80	None	2	6 to 6	—		
Mr. Robert Howy, Old Park, Belfast.	Linens-cloth, and cotton- cloth.	—	32	2	6 to 6	—	Sometimes to 10 p.m., and occa- sionally all night.	100
Mr. Wm. Ewart & Son, Glen- bank, Belfast.	Linens-cloth, handker- chiefs and cotton goods.	—	27	—	6½ to 6½	2 and 30 min.	None	90
Mr. J. F. Fergusson, Cran- lin-road, Belfast.	Linens-cloth	30	None	2	6 to 6	—		
Mr. John Roberts, Collin- green, Liskerna.	—	—	None	4	6 to 6	—		
Mr. James Fergusson & Sons, New Forge, Belfast.	Linens and linens-jura.	195	60	6	6 to 6 in summer; 8 to 8 in winter.	2	A few females sometimes all night.	90
Mr. Wallace, Glemgornish, Belfast.	Linens-cloth	60	1	None	—	—		
Messrs. Fenton, Son & Co., Hyde Park, Belfast.	Linens and cotton-cloth.	130	37	—	6 to 6	2	Rarely	85 to 95
Mr. Gray, Gray Mount, Bel- fast.	Linens-cloth	—	None	5	6 to 6	—	Occasion- ally.	
Messrs. Bragg & Dobson, Cotton-mountain, Belfast.	Linens and muslin.	250	146	40	6 to 7	2	Sometimes a night set of females; sometimes all till 9 p.m.	85, 90, 95
Mr. John L. Bell, Ballyclare, Belfast.	Muslin only	150	100	12	6 to 7	2	Sometimes to 8 & 9 p.m.; some- times a night set. Not often to 8.	90
Messrs. Thomas & Charles Richardson, Springfield, Lurgan.	Handker- chiefs only.	643	39	1	7½ to 6½	—		90
Mr. Nicholson, Donaghong, Lurgan.	Handker- chiefs.	—	3	2	—	—		
Mr. Pennell, Banbridge.	Handker- chiefs.	—	60	—	6 to 6	1½	Occasional- ly.	90
Mr. Robinson, Ballydown, Banbridge.	Handker- chiefs.	70	50	10	6 to 6	—	Occasional- ly to 8 or 9 p.m.	80
Mr. Hill, Banbridge.	Linens-cloth	20	None	None	—	—		
Mr. J. Smith, Banbridge.	Linens-cloth	—	1	1	—	—		
Mr. Hayes, Millmount, Ban- bridge.	Linens-cloth, &c.	30	None	4	—	—	Two at night turn sometimes.	
Mr. McClelland, Banville, Banbridge.	Linens-cloth	—	None	1	—	—		
Mr. J. & W. Upritchard.	Linens-cloth, &c.	80	4	14	—	—	Half the boys every other night; females rarely.	
Messrs. Houghton & Pennell, Banford-green, Gilford.	Linens-cloth, and cambric handker- chiefs, &c., &c.	70	1	11	6 to 6	2	Half the boys alter- nately at night-work.	
Mr. Herring, Waringtown, Lurgan.	Cambric handker- chiefs.	75	24	14	6 to 7 and 8 to 8	2½	Rarely, for shipping orders.	90 to 95
Carried forward - - -	- - -	2589	1089	164				

	Masters and Finishers of what descrip- tion of goods.	Number of people employed.	Number of females employed.	Number of boys employed.	Usual Hours of Work.	Time allowed for meal and rest.	Overtime for females and boys.	Temperature of store, when in use.
Carried forward - - William Kirk, Esq., M.P. & Sons, Ansdale, Keady.	Linen-cloth.	2,680 400	1,009 2	164 64	A.M. P.M. 6 to 6	Hrs. 2	40 boys at night-works 20 every alternate month. Half the boys at night.	DEG. FARN.
Mr. Klid, Dundrum, Keady.	Linen-cloth	130	None	12	—	—	—	—
Mr. Wynn, Lister, Armagh.	Linen-cloth	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mr. Chaine, Maskamore, Antrim.	Linen-cloth	174	1	4	6 to 6	—	None	—
Mr. Wallace, Dundry, An- trim.	Linen and cotton.	100	None	None	—	—	—	—
Mr. Hunter, Blandraigh, Dundry, Antrim.	Linen-cloth	50	None	None	—	—	—	—
Mr. Dickson, Ballymena.	Linen-cloth	60	2	None	—	—	None.	—
Messrs. Gibson & Son, Lims- fallen, Ballymena.	Linen-cloth	100	3	3	—	—	Barely.	—
Mr. Young, Ballymena	Linen-cloth	50	None	2	—	—	Not later than 8.	—
Messrs. Barclay, Mallegh- more, Ballymoney - -	Linen-cloth and cambric handker- chiefs.	260	30	8	6 to 6	—	Very sol- d-on.	99
Messrs. Bennett & Adams, Ballymoney.	Linen-cloth	40	3	3	—	—	Occasional- ly.	—
Mr. J. Adams, junr, Gorton, Ballymoney.	Linen-cloth	—	None	3	—	—	—	—
Messrs. Humpholl, Hunter, & Co., Greenfield, Bally- money.	Linen-cloth	30	None	4	6 to 6	—	Sometimes every alternate night to 11.	—
Messrs. Carey, McClelland, & Co., Ardmore, London- derry.	Linen and cotton.	80	None	13	6 to 6	—	Occasion- ally.	—
Total.....		4,180	1,100	271				

EAST OF SCOTLAND.

EVIDENCE RESPECTING THE LINEN CLOTH AND LINEN YARN BLEACH-WORKS.

1033. Mr. DANIEL FORBES (Messrs. Patton and Brown, Pittodrie, Perth).—I am one of the managers of these works. We bleach linen cloth, and employ about 20 men, 5 boys, and 15 women. Our regular hours of work are from 2 a.m. to 8 at night; this is in the bleaching; and they go on without stopping, except two hours for meals. In this department we have 5 females; but we are not able always to get them up at that hour, they are so tired. In the other, the beetling-mills, we have 10 women, who go on from 6 to 10, and every other night from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning, except that they rest from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m., and then it takes them sometimes an hour or less to shift their beetling beams, then they lie down on the boards again till 5 in the morning, and go on the same way; therefore every alternate night they get home to go to bed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. They have all laboured greatly to get the hours shortened. They are generally so tired that if they sit down they are asleep in a minute.

1034. Mr. TRACRELL, Huntingtower, Perth.—I bleach linen cloth, diaper, and damask and diaper table-linen, and employ about 150 people.

1035. In our beetling process I have 15 females and 15 men. The hours of work when busy, are thus arranged: they begin at 6, and from 12 o'clock (after an hour for breakfast) they can go on for three days with three quarters of an hour's work every three hours.

1036. But the general hours of work are from 6 to 9, or to half past 10 at night, with those intervals of three hours after every three quarters of an hour. They then go home at half past 10 or 11, and come again at 6 a.m. The night set that begin at 2 a.m. are a man and a woman (husband and wife, or brother and sister, if we can manage it).

These will go on from 6 all night after three days' work once every four nights; but when the new works are finished it will be once in 8 days. It takes them about three quarters of an hour after 2 o'clock to arrange the beams, and they can then rest till 6 o'clock. We cannot always have brother and sister or husband and wife at this work.

1037. In the drying and bleaching department we have 30 females. Their regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, but when we are busy (as we were nearly all last year) they sometimes work from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. with two hours for meals.

1038. The "lappers" (or makers up), seven females, average from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., but they have half an hour for their tea.

1039. We have half a dozen young girls to mark the goods, but they do not work over-hours.

1040. We have six boys, who also occasionally work from 6 to 8.

1041. We have no hot stoves, and the work is very healthy.

1042. Although I might be put to considerable inconvenience in these works by night-work being stopped, I would willingly submit to it, and put on men to work instead, in order to put an end to the immorality that must occur in the country by the present arrangements. The chief effect would be to reduce the wages of the women. There may be some difficulty in conforming to the factory hours, but I believe it will all be got over.

1043. THOS. STEWART.—I am employed as a beetler. Since Mr. Turnbull granted us a half holiday on Saturday, so that we stop at 5, I do not complain; and he also altered the hours at night from stopping at 11 to stopping at 10, and we go on at 3 a.m. on Monday in place of going on at 1. The men held meetings to get the short time Bill last summer.

1044. Mr. ROBINSON.—I am the manager of Mr. Turnbull's works. I do not see at this moment how we should get over the difficulty if night-work was stopped. It would require some consideration, but probably we should find a way after a time of getting over it.

1045. [Mr. Turnbull is making large additions to his buildings and machinery, for the purpose of rendering overtime less necessary.]

1046. Mr. SPOTTISWOODE, Linen Bleach-Works, Stornoway, Perth.—We employ about 50 people, of whom about one half are females. No boys under 18.

1047. Our regular hours of work are in winter from 7 to 6, and in summer from 6 to 8, Saturdays included, and two hours a day for meals, and half an hour for tea if they work overtime. Occasionally we work overtime, and they are paid half a day's wages if they work till 9, and sometimes they work as late as 12.

1048. The beetlers who work during the night are in sets of two men and four women.

1049. It often happens in summer that we go on till 8 or 9 o'clock.

1050. The linen is "grass bleached." It remains on the field four or five days together. It is then "booked," and has wood ashes applied to it four or five times, and is put out again after every "booking." This process goes on for several days. After other processes it is dried in the air-drying houses. We do not use hot stoves.

1051. The labour is not excessive for the females; they have frequent opportunities of resting during the day.

1052. In order to get through our work in the factory hours, we should have to employ more hands, probably not many more, as we might substitute lads and men for a few of the females.

1053. The beetlers go on all night whenever we have work for them. At present most of the set stop at 10; a few of the rest go on till 12.

1054. Mr. SCOTT, manager (Mr. Caird and Co., Cromwell Park, Perth).—We bleach linen yarn, and employ about 40 people, of whom 12 are females and 2 boys.

1055. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals, and on Saturday from half past 5 to 4 p.m.

1056. The nature of our work is such that whatever quantity is begun in the morning, it must go through its full round in the course of the day.

1057. We seldom work any overtime; when we do it is to oblige a customer, who wants a lot of yarn finished by a certain day. Or if anything goes wrong in the course of the day, and we are hindered a little, we must go on with the work to finish it before we stop; otherwise the yarn would spoil in many of the processes. They are paid for extra time. The bell rings morning and evening at 6, and at the meal hours. The work is very healthy, and the females and boys do not work in the stoves.

1058. The females are chiefly employed in the boiling-house, arranging the work for the men, and taking it away from the squeezers, and laying it upon reeks and waggons, and also in laying it out on the field.

1059. Our being obliged to work overtime to oblige a customer, is exceedingly rare. It does not happen once in a month, just for half an hour or an hour.

1060. If a break happens in the machinery, we have to stay on till the day's work is finished.

1061. Our boilers are calculated to hold 900 lbs. of yarn. As the yarn differs in fineness the finer yarn will run many more hanks to the 900 lbs., and require more handwork, and consequently more time. This causes us more extra hours than anything else, but seldom beyond half an hour or an hour over 6 o'clock.

1062. It is necessary to fill the boiler, as it will not do its work unless it is full. If the stuff moves about in the boiler, which it would do if it was not full, it would lose the benefit of the process.

1063. We do not count half hours; we always pay a full hour for any extra time.

1064. As the Bill does not propose to interfere with men and lads, we could get over it, though by paying a little more wages, by sending away the females at 6, and finishing up with lads and men.

1065. We should be better pleased to be allowed the hours from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., with two hours for meals; and the hours on Saturdays, as at present, from half past 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workers curtail their meal hours on Saturdays voluntarily to half an hour each, in order to be sure of finishing up at 4 o'clock.

1066. We must work the same number of hours on Saturday as on any other day. Although it is nominally only $9\frac{1}{2}$ working hours on Saturday, they get through the 10 hours' work in $9\frac{1}{2}$ by making extra exertion.

1067. WILLIAM MARSHALL, Esq. (Messrs. Marshall, Sandiman, and Co., Lumarty, Perth).—We bleach linen cloth exclusively, and employ about 40 men, 40 females, and two or three boys.

1068. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals; in winter from 7 to 6, with one hour for meals.

1069. The beetling process employs a portion of our hands during the night. From 9 p.m. to about 10, we have twelve females preparing the work for the night. They then go home, and return at 6 a.m.; sometimes a little sooner, by their own arrangements; they go home at 6 until 9. There are no boys with the night set of men.

1070. The work for all in the beetling process from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. is constant. At 9 they go to breakfast till 10. From 10 to 2 p.m. they have not more than half their time employed, because they are only attending on the machinery, sitting down as they please. They go to dinner at 2 and return at 3; work half an hour, then attend on the machinery as before till half past 5. From that time till 6 they are putting cloth on the beams. At 6, or a little after, they go home. It is, therefore, very easy work for all.

1071. In the bleaching process, when we are busy, from six to twelve females begin work at 2 o'clock a.m. They have to take cloth out of the boilers. Some will do this in one hour, others in two, others in three. Those who get through in good time go home; the rest remain in the shed till 6 o'clock. They then commence their day's work from 6 to 6. It is a kind of piece-work; so that some get through their day's work quicker than others, and may be able to go home at 5 o'clock.

1072. Six or seven females are employed in the drying-house. They also begin at 2 a.m. and get home between 5 and 5 a.m., returning again at 6 to their work, and leaving off at 6 or a little after.

1073. The remaining females in our employ (three in the "lapping" or "making up" room) work from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals, and on Saturdays from 6 to 3. If they go on beyond 6, it is only until 7, and by their own arrangements. They never go away before 7 when we are in full work, which is pretty generally, except of late when business has been dull. They begin at 7 in winter, and have only half an hour for each meal. It is not laborious work.

1074. We bleach linen cloth, both plain and table linen of the best descriptions. Some kinds will take a month only to bleach, others require six weeks or two months. Most of the linen bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Perth are dependent upon water-power, and liable to long and continued interruptions during the winter. This year we have been interrupted from the beginning of January to the end of February, in consequence of the frost. It would be of no service to us to be allowed to make up this time at the rate of an hour a day as in the factories, or even at the rate of three hours a day, unless we added to our machinery. The bleaching difficulty we might get over, but the principal difficulty would be in reference to the beetling, because beetling is a process requiring skill, and we could not have men at hand for extra work. Having water-power only, we are obliged to go on night and day.

1075. HECTOR SANDIMAN, Esq., Tulloch Bleach-Works, Perth.—We bleach linen and cotton cloth, and employ from 60 to 70 persons, of whom about 20 are females, and 4 boys above 12. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, Saturdays included, with two hours for meals in summer, and from 7 to 6 in winter (i.e., for three months), with an interval of half an hour each for two meals. Frequently we work overtime, sometimes amounting only to a few hours per month, sometimes an aggregate of four or five days.

1076. The beetlers go on night and day, though they contrive to have a long interval of rest during the night. Our beetlers are seven men and seven women, all married men, but not working with their wives. It is easy work, and they earn high wages compared with the rest.

1077. Occasionally the boys work overtime up to about 9 o'clock, only in summer.

1078. I should deprecate any legislative interference as far as works like mine are concerned, and I am of opinion that it will injure the trade.

1079. During the night-work the parents of the girls or boys are generally working near them, though not in the same place, not far separated at any time, and when they go home they go in bands together.

1080. The young ones are encouraged to attend an evening school belonging to the works and neighbourhood. I provide the school-room.

1081. If the hours were to be limited from 6 to 6, we should occasionally be put to inconveniences arising from the cloth not having been carried off the field before 6 o'clock by the ordinary hands. We should be under the necessity of bringing hands from other departments, and putting the whole body upon the field for that purpose. It can only arise in summer, and if we are very busy.

1082. There is no overwork on Saturdays. We always stop at or before 6, often at 4 or 5.

1083. Dr. BOASE, M.D., resident partner and manager (Messrs Turnbull & Co., Claverhouse Bleach-works, Dundee).—We bleach linen cloth and linen yarn, and employ when we are busiest about 150 people in the bleachfield. We have voluntarily adopted the hours from 6 to 6 for five days in the week with nominally two hours for meals, but the work-people gave up a quarter of an hour, and we the same amount, in order that they may stop at 2 o'clock on Saturdays once a fortnight, the alternate Saturday they go on till 6. In winter we begin at half past 6 and work till half past 6, but the principle of 60 working hours per week is preserved.

1084. We avoid as much as possible any overhours; it very seldom happens, and never with any but men.

1085. We may have about 40 women and 20 boys.

1086. The women are employed principally in the bleaching houses and upon the field; on the latter they are all girls from about 12 to 14.

1087. The boys are employed in the same manner.

1088. In our stores we have neither women nor boys, they are all men.

1089. When the beetling machines are busy we have two men and four women; they work at night extra hours, but we always place relatives together as much as possible. Sometimes when a sudden order comes we have to put these machines at work all night, and that for some months together. If women were forbidden to work at night, we should substitute men.

1090. We do not like extra time, as we find that if the people work longer than the proper hours one day they are incapacitated for work the next day if the extra time continues. We used to work extra time for some weeks together, but discontinued it for those three years past, as we found it unprofitable.

1091. There is, however, this to be considered with regard to the ordinary linen bleaching process in Scotland, which is out-door work upon the field. It may happen at all times of the year that we may be liable to sudden emergencies from the state of the weather that may compel work to be done instantly for the preservation of property. This may sometimes occur half a dozen times in the year, but it might not occur at all for a whole year. The instances are of this kind: We may have (say) 10,000 lb. of cloth and yarn upon the grass. A snow-storm may be commencing towards the end of a day. In such a case we turn out all hands from every department of the works to gather up and bring in, or put into piles, to make safe, everything that is exposed. Another contingency is, that after the goods have been long frozen a thaw may set in. If the goods are not all moved immediately, the frost may recommence and they may be all frozen again, and detained still longer upon the grass. Again, in summer, it is necessary to be always on our guard against mildew. An incipient mildew may be detected towards the end of the day. It may be partial, but as much as is threatened must be taken up immediately. All our women, girls, and boys would be required for that purpose, and it may take them two or three hours after time. But during the seven years I have been superintending here I have only known two instances of this. Nevertheless if the yarns so threatened had not been immediately gathered up, we should have incurred a loss of several hundred pounds. In these various contingencies a very considerable loss might occur.

1092. These circumstances considered, we ought not to be liable to punishment if we transgress the hours that may be fixed by law. If, on being summoned for exceeding the hours limited by law, we can show such causes as the above for departure from those hours on an emergency, the excuse ought to be valid. In other words, the proposed Act ought to give us liberty to exceed the stipulated hours in such cases of necessity, as such emergencies occur so seldom.

1093. This question was considered by the trade when we heard that the Bill of last year was before the house, and it was obvious to us all that it would be a hardship to be placed in such circumstances as that we should be compelled to transgress the law, our business depending on the state of the weather which is not under our control, as is also the case with farmers, mariners, &c., who are liable to similar contingencies.

1094. What I have stated applies both to the linen, and the yarn bleaching; we do both in large quantities.

1095. The three largest bleach-works in this part of the country are our own, Mr. Dimmie's of Panmure bleach-field, and Mr. Norrey's of Douglasfield.

1096. Messrs. CARGILL & Co., Dundee Bleachfield.—We bleach nothing but yarn. We employ from 70 to 80 people. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6 in summer, with two hours for meals. In winter from half past 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 45 minutes each meal-time. On pay Saturdays we stop at 2; on other Saturdays at the usual hours. We oblige every one to come regularly at the appointed hour, under a fine for being five minutes late.

1097. We employ about twenty females and ten boys.

1198. I think, for the same reasons as those stated by Dr. Bease, that we should be permitted to use overhours the labour of our females and boys, on the emergencies which he has detailed. My opinion is, that the emergencies arising from weather occur rather more frequently than Dr. Bease has mentioned. With us it may have occurred a dozen times annually.

1099. Our females work principally in assisting in putting up the yarn in bundles, in spreading the goods on the grass, and working in the bleaching-house. No females or boys with us are employed in hot stoves at all.

1100. With regard to making up time lost by flood or by scarcity of water, it ought to be allowed to be made up immediately, as the goods, being in a perishable state, would otherwise be spoiled. We require females and boys for that. We may not have had occasion to do this ten different times in the course of last year, at the rate of perhaps four hours a day.

1101. We could have a book lying in the counting-house, in which we might be required to enter the reason before commencing the extra work, under a penalty for a mis-statement, if such a thing may be considered possible.

1102. We do not want to work overtime; on the contrary it is a disadvantage to us, and speaking generally a loss.

1103. I consider the plan which we go upon, of giving a good rate of wages, and getting full work done within the ten hours, far better than that adopted in some places, of paying a low rate, and allowing people to work long hours. I know this from my experience both as manager and owner of bleach-works.

1104. Mr. ANDREW LAIRD (Messrs. Norrey & Sons, Douglasfield Linen and Linen Yarn Bleach-works, Dundee).—We employ between 80 and 90 people altogether. We employ about eight females, and eight boys. Our usual hours of work are from 6 to 6, with an hour and a half for meals, and we stop at 2 on Saturdays.

1105. If any Act should be passed to make these hours compulsory, we wish to have a latitude allowed to employ the females and boys overhours, on an emergency arising from weather.

1106. We should like to have it also at other times, when the goods are in a state where they might be injured by remaining in the other processes, not on the grass. But if we could not employ the females and boys for that, we must put the goods in a state of safety by the men.

1107. We should require liberty to make up for time lost by want of water. Sometimes we are employed three or four extra hours in the evening for want of water in the morning.

1108. We have beetling engines; when we are busy two females go on all night, with sometimes one man, sometimes two. They begin to work at 6 a.m. and have intervals of rest during the whole 24 hours of perhaps two hours at a time. This may happen sometimes for a week together, sometimes longer. Then for some weeks they will only work during the day.

1109. We have no females or boys in the stoves, only men. The temperature is about 90°.

1110. Mr. FRANCIS MCINTYRE (Mr. John McIntyre's Linen Yarn Bleach-works, Balunie, Dundee).—We employ from 30 to 100 people, according to the state of trade, of whom about 16 to 20 are females, and six to eight boys. Our usual working hours are from 6 to 6 winter and summer, with two hours for meals. On the pay Saturday they leave off at 2; that is, once in four weeks.

1111. On emergencies arising from the weather, we should require to have power to go on with the females and boys for some overtime. It would be seldom later than (say) 8 o'clock.

1112. This may happen about a dozen times in the year.

1113. As regards overtime in the processes generally, if a lot of yarn should be going through any process and not in a safe state to leave it in exactly at 6 o'clock, we should like to be allowed to keep on the females and boys for (say) half an hour later, and we might be disposed, if we were not allowed to do so, to employ fewer females and boys, or perhaps none; but as there is to be no interference with adult male labour, we should have to finish up a lot in that state by our men. Our object in keeping boys and girls at all is that it is a nursery for rearing hands.

1114. Having heard Dr. Bease's and Mr. Cargill's statements read, on the subject of overtime, I concur with them.

1115. Mr. DUNN, Panmure Bleachfield, Dundee.—We bleach yarn only. We employ about 180 people, of whom 40 are females, and 40 boys.

1116. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with an hour for breakfast and three quarters of an hour for dinner, on five days of the week, and on one Saturday we stop at 5, and the other at 2; so that we make 60 hours a week. We adopted these hours a year ago; previously we worked 66 hours per week. We very rarely have any overtime. It happens occasionally in making up the bundles of yarn, when we are pushed to execute an order. We have in that room 16 females, but the labour is very light.

1117. These hours for meals differ from those that are usual at bleach-works. We adopted them in consequence of the distance that some of our workmen live from our works. We should be sorry to be obliged to depart from them and conform strictly to the factory hours. If the hours were to be entered in a book, to be kept in the counting-house and open to an inspector, we might make an entry showing if at any time we varied them, and thus satisfy him that we did not work more than 60 hours per week.

1118. We have no females or boys in the stores. We have no cloth beetling engine.

1119. Our overtime is occasioned by a sudden order from the merchants. If an Act should pass limiting the hours for females and boys to 60 hours per week, we should be obliged to employ men from other departments of the overtime work.

1120. Having heard Dr. Boase's statement read, I concur in it; but I should wish to add that in very wet and in very windy weather we cannot put down our goods upon the field. Therefore, in addition to the contingencies mentioned by Dr. Boase, I should say that "hindrance by weather generally" ought to be allowed as a valid excuse for employing our females and boys overhours on the day following.

1121. This latitude could never be abused, because it is necessary to carry on all these operations by day; and it is perfectly healthy work, being in the open field. We provide thick cloaks or great coats for our females and boys, to guard them against wet or cold. We have done so for many years. An entry to be made in a book to be kept at the office might easily satisfy an inspector that we had not worked over-hours without one of the reasons above adverted to.

1122. Mr. WM. DOWIE (Messrs. Strachan, Kimond, and Co. Calenderers and Finishers, Dundee).—We calender and finish both linen and cotton goods. We employ no females, and only one boy.

1123. There are several similar establishments in Dundee, in none of which females and boys are employed.

1124. Our regular hours are from 6 to half-past 6, with two hours for meals.

1125. Messrs. WEBSTER, SALMON, and Co. Ward Mill Bleach-field, Arbroath.—We bleach linen yarn only, and employ from 49 to 70 people, according to the state of trade. At present we have 15 females and only 2 boys. Sometimes we have from 20 to 30 females and about 4 boys.

1126. Our regular working hours are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals, and the same on Saturdays, unless they choose to begin at 5 in the summer months, in order to stop at 4, with half an hour only for each meal.

1127. About a year ago our hours used to be from 6 to 7, but we reduced them at the request of our people.

1128. My opinion is, that from 6 to 6 is quite long enough. I have had 18 years' experience in this business, and I have come long since to the conclusion that extra hours are a dead loss to the employer.

1129. We are nevertheless compelled occasionally to employ our people overhours, partly to oblige customers, partly in consequence of the weather.

1130. Sometimes it happens that unless we are able to take advantage of a particular kind of evening to put out or to bring in our yarns, we might be seriously hindered or injured. The yarn might be left out in a snow storm, and might be ruined. We must therefore under any circumstances have full power to employ all our people after hours on an emergency arising from weather.

1131. Doubtless it would be often very inconvenient to us not to be able to employ females and boys overhours to oblige a customer. But if an Act was passed, we should be driven in such cases to employ men only. This would at the same time not suit us, and it is our opinion that no legislative interference is wanted for yarn bleach-works. We have no stores in which women and boys are employed when they are heated or at night, and the overtime comes very seldom. The females and boys, and all our work-people, are exceedingly healthy.

1132. Were we obliged to shew overhours in all other cases except those arising from emergencies of weather, we should have no other alternative than that of making some addition to our means of getting through extra work in a shorter time. We should not think it desirable to dismiss the females altogether, and substitute men. A woman's wages are 6s. 6d. per week, and a man's from 12s. to 14s. Our hands are quite contented with the hours as they are.

1133. Mr. DUNCAN, JUN. (David Duncan & Co., Walk Mills Linen Yarn Bleach-works, Arbroath).—We employ about 30 to 40 people altogether, of whom eight are females, and about 10 boys under 18.

1134. Our usual hours are from 6 to 6, Saturdays, from 6 to 5.

1135. We have occasion sometimes to exceed these hours, principally to oblige customers.

1136. The work is so unobjectionable for females and boys, and the overtime so seldom, that we do not see the necessity for any legislative interference in our case. We do not employ either females or boys in the stoves at night. The overtime seldom exceeds a couple of hours, and that not often for many days together.

1137. I think that all that is required in respect to the yarn bleach-works is, that they should be restricted from employing females or boys later than 8 or 9 o'clock. The females we employ are from 12 years old upwards, but the young ones are never employed at night. This would at all events be a step in the right direction, so far as preventing excessive hours is concerned.

1138. Extra hours are paid in the same proportion as their wages. A woman earns 1s. a day; one extra hour is therefore a fraction above a penny. Two extra hours would be (say) $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, as we give them the fraction in their favour. A man earns from 11s. to 14s. per week, from 1s. 10d. to 2s. 4d. a day. One extra hour would be for the former $2\frac{1}{2}d.$, for the latter $3d.$ per hour. The difference would be $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per hour on an average. If we were to dismiss our eight females and employ eight men for one extra hour, it would amount to 2s.

1139. It is more the inconvenience of being obliged to send off all our females and boys at a certain hour that I look to, than the increased cost.

1140. MR. ALEXANDER IRELAND, manager (Messrs. Aherdeen, Gordon, & Co., Logie Bleach-works, Montrose).—We bleach linen yarn only, and employ about 35 men, 10 boys, and 16 females. Our regular hours of work are from 4 to 6, stopping on Saturdays at 2, but they make up those two hours by shortening their meal hours, or making up a few minutes at night and morning. We make it our study as far as possible to keep to the 59 hours per week.

1141. The females are all employed in the field. The boys are employed out and in occasionally.

1142. We never make overtime except when obliged by the state of the goods at the moment, or by weather.

1143. The yarn is boiled in large boilers, which must be kept full. We never can tell to a few minutes when the yarn will be ready to take out. It depends upon the quality of the yarn. We are not, for this reason, able always to stop at the exact hour for meals; it is seldom more than ten minutes forward or backward; and so also in the evening, we may be ten minutes before 6 or ten minutes after. To stop always punctually at the hour would be impossible. We have no females at this work, but the boys are engaged at it with the men, and could not be dispensed with.

1144. Neither females and boys are ever employed in the hot stove. Very few even of our men are in the stoves, as we have the yarn in the open air.

1145. We are occasionally hindered by weather, by frost and snow, or rain, or wind, and may therefore be obliged to keep a dozen or two of our men overhours in the winter season, but not in the summer; and the females and boys are not required on those occasions. The men alone put out or take in the yarn.

1146. If any Act is to be applied to linen yarn bleach-works, regulating the hours, it would be essential to allow us this latitude of going on a little after the regular hours, to prevent injury to the goods. The danger is, that if the yarn is left too long in the alkali, or in the chloride of lime, or in the sulphuric acid (the three processes it goes through in succession), it would spoil; and it is necessary to watch so as to know the exact moment when to take it out. If we were to be allowed a latitude of half an hour for this, it would be quite sufficient.

1147. In the same manner, if a storm of wind were to come on, or in case of flood, we might be called upon even in the night by the watchmen to remove the whole of the goods that might be in danger. If it occurred in the afternoon or at night, we should have just all our strength, as many as we could muster (and even more than are regularly employed), on the work, to gather it together and put it out of danger. It may happen in large establishments that, just before 6 in the evening in summer, it might be necessary to use the whole strength in gathering up goods for an hour or more overtime.

1148. In the making-up room we have four females, who help in putting the yarn into bundles or finishing them ready to send for shipment. I have known them kept till 10 o'clock at night for many weeks together. That occurs when trade is brisk. Sometimes I have seen it for five weeks together. Then there might be an interval of a month, or a fortnight, or a week, perhaps even only a day, and we might go on again in the same way for eight or ten days or more. They are strong women, and very healthy. If this was to be stopped by an Act, we should employ men for it. The general part of the bleach-works, I believe, employ men for that. These females would come at 6 a.m. and stay till 10, and I have seen them stop till 11. They are not young girls. We have no boys at that work.

1149. In the stove the yarn is with us put in in the morning and taken out at night. Sometimes it remains 24 hours, depending upon the kind of yarn, the coarser remaining longest. By our system we have not occasion to turn it while in the stoves; we take it out for that purpose. It is turned to make it dry evenly.

1150. We should also have power to work overtime if we lost time by want of water or by flood, or by breakages of machinery. We are oftentimes stopped by overmuch water.

1151. Mr. FRYER, manager (Messrs Richards and Co, Craigie Bleach-works, Montrose).—We bleach and finish linen and linen yarn, and employ about 100 people, of whom about 20 are females and about 40 boys.

1152. About a year ago we established the hours of from 6 to 6 as our regular hours, except on Saturdays, when in summer they begin at 4 and leave off at 2. The meal hours are two a day.

1153. We have very seldom overtime for the females and boys, with the following exceptions: We have a night set of two females at the beetling machine. They begin at 6 a.m., and go on till 6 a.m., and continue at this without change. No men work with them, but there are night-sets of men in the adjoining buildings.

1154. We have occasionally night-work for boys in the yarn operations; two or three may be in the night-set.

1155. The linen-beetling machines are worked entirely by men. They generally go on at night only, for the convenience of water. They have no boys to assist them, or the stove-men who work all the winter at night. The boiler-men work winter and summer at night, but have no boys.

1156. In the stove for day work we have eight females when we are in full work. They carry in the yarns and carry them out to shake. The temperature in the stoves is about 100° to 130°. They are not in that heat longer at a time than a minute or so; they then come out to a cool place, and will be there a few minutes before they go back into the stove. Their hours are regular from 6 to 6, and they do not work overtime. Before our present regulation their hours used to be from 6 to 7, which had been the regular hours for 30 years.

1157. We have four females in the "making-up" rooms, but no overtime.

1158. If our females and boys are to be restricted by Act of Parliament to our regular hours, we must have liberty to keep them overtime on occasions when our yarn or cloth may be in danger if it is to be left upon the field. This might happen from wind, or frost, or snow.

1159. Also, we cannot always say to a few minutes when the linen yarn operations can be concluded. If they were left between the operations, that is, if they were not taken from one immediately to the other, the ingredients would become active again and the yarn would be injured. We must have a latitude, therefore, which would allow us to go on with any such operation after the stated hours. I think a latitude of half an hour would enable us to put things safe in ordinary cases. The little that might remain might be done by the men. We often leave off 10 minutes before 6 when an operation is concluded, and we often go on 10 minutes after 6, not often longer. We must, of course, have power to go on longer to make up for time lost by want of water, or by overmuch water, or by breakage of machinery.

1160. Mr. COOPER, manager (Messrs Richards & Co, Rubislaw Bleach-works, Aberdeen).—We bleach linen and linen yarn. We employ about 200 people altogether when busy, of whom about 40 are women, 5 young girls, and 26 boys. They are not paid extra time till after 7 o'clock, but we seldom go on so late as that. On Saturdays we stop at 3, beginning at 6 a.m.

1161. We prepare the yarn chiefly outside the stove, and the general thing is that women have to empty and fill the stove. Sometimes they may be in the stove for half an hour or an hour when we require it for a particular process, but then the doors are thrown open, and the heating power is stopped. The heat of the stove when they go in may be about 100°, but it cools down rapidly. As we use the new plan of heating by hot air we can cool down the stove with great ease, we have a perfect command over it; but the old plan of heating by hot brick flues, which is still the most prevalent, does not admit of this. Eight or fewer of our females are employed in the stove, and that only occasionally, and chiefly in winter. They are very little wanted in the stove.

1162. We have no night-work for females or boys.

1163. At the beetling engines of cloth or yarn we have only one female and two boys. They sometimes make an extra hour, but very seldom.

1164. We allow two hours a day for meals.

1165. Some of our females are employed in preparing the yarn for bundling, but they do not make longer hours than the rest.

1166. If trade were to become very brisk again, we should not make overtime but augment the bands. We should go on to 7 before paying overtime.

1167. We do not always stop quite punctually at a particular hour; sometimes we have to go half an hour beyond 6, sometimes we stop at half past 5. This is occasioned by the state of the yarn or cloth, some qualities may require a little more labour or a little more time than others. A batch of fine yarn may take us some minutes longer than a similar bulk of coarser. We ought, therefore, to have the power of going on with our females and boys a little after hours to meet these cases, provided always we do not exceed 60 hours a week.

1168. On Saturdays we stop at 2, but they take only half an hour to levelish, and do not stop for dinner. We never begin earlier than 6.

1169. This is the only bleachfield in this part of the country. There were others, but they have been discontinued.

1170. Mr. JAMES GLEN.—I superintend the linen bleaching department of these works.

1171. Our hours are about the same as the yarn department, generally not so long. We begin at 4 and leave off sometimes at 4, 5, or 6. This has been the case for nine years back. We do not pay for overhours unless they work 10-4-7. If there were to become very lark, we should work up to 7, and beyond it. There are 7 females and 2 boys in my department at present. The boys are increased sometimes up to 6.

1172. We do not employ females at the beesting at night. A year ago I had a double set of 4 men and 4 boys, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. This was in consequence of a lark demand at the time, and might occur again.

1173. Mr. JOHN LAMB (Messrs. Lamb, Scott, and Co., Inch Bleaching Company, Brechin).—We bleach linen yarn exclusively; and employ about 85 people altogether, of whom 16 are females, and 10 boys.

1174. Although we consider our regular hours to be from 6 to 6, stopping at 5 on Saturdays, with two hours for meals except on that day, we usually go on till about 7 or later; but it happens that for the last seven weeks we have had only three hours of overtime per week.

1175. We have no females or boys employed in the stove, nor any at beesting.

1176. Supposing an Act to pass limiting the hours for females and boys to between 6 and 6, if we had the liberty of working an hour overtime or under-time, it would suit us. I should not like to be confined to 60 hours per week, although in all probability it would run from 60 to 65 hours. However, at times of lark demand we should go on habitually till 7.

1177. It is a question, as far as we are concerned, whether or not we should take on a few more hands, to do the work within the 60 hours; but I question whether the hands would like that.

1178. As we have neither females nor boys in hot stoves or at beesting, and all the work is comparatively light for them, we do not think that an hour or two a week extra would be in the least objectionable.

1179. One or two of our boys are about 13 years old, a few between that and 15, about three fourths of them above 15.

1180. We have only about one or two females between 13 and 15, the rest are pretty equally divided between 15 and 20.

1181. Mr. INGLAND, partner and manager (East Mill Company, Brechin).—We employ 80 altogether, of whom 19 are females, and 13 boys.

1182. Our regular hours are 10 per day, but we sometimes work overtime; chiefly, however, with the men. All the hands work occasionally overhours more or less, especially during the winter.

1183. The four females in the "bundling" room often go on till 10 on those occasions, but it would be no difficulty to us to prevent that with the females.

1184. The boys when they work overhours are employed in the washing and bleaching departments generally.

1185. It would frequently be very inconvenient to us if our females and boys were obliged to stop at a particular hour. We may wish to continue them longer when the state of trade requires it. In addition also to the ordinary emergencies of weather, which may cause us to require all our hands to a later hour than 6, we may be impeded for part of a day by the water being in a disturbed state from rain at a distance, and might find the water unsuitable to our purposes later in the afternoon, when by working on we might complete the day's work.

1186. Mr. ROBERT PATTEN (manager in Mr. Pearson's Linen Yarn Bleach-Works, Ballinurie, Mark Inch, Fifeshire).—We employ 8 men and about 30 females, and no boys at present. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6 with two hours for meals, with the same on Saturdays; and we never make overtime.

1187. These are the general hours in Fifeshire, with the exception that some works have a different arrangement for Saturday.

1188. Mr. WM. DAVES (manager at Mr. Robert Tullies and Co., Linen Yarn Bleach-Works, Rothes, Mark Inch, Fifeshire).—We employ 10 men, 27 females, and 2 boys. Our hours are from 6 to 6 with 2 hours for meals; the same on Saturdays except on pay day, when they take half an hour less for meals.

We have not worked overtime since I came here five years ago.

1189. If anything happens as to weather that may oblige us to gather in the yarn, we ought to be allowed to keep the females and boys overtime for that purpose; and also in the steeping, we cannot always get through with it within 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour.

1190. These are the general hours in all Fifeshire. I have been a bleacher for 51 years, and the hours have always been the same. It is only yarn we bleach in Fifeshire. There is no cloth-field in Fif.

1191. The females are very little in the hot stoves,—just half an hour or an hour at a time shaking the yarn, half an hour out of every three hours. The temperature is from 85° to 90°.

1192. Mr. JOHN CAIRD (John Fergus Esq., M.P., Princes Bleach-Works, Lealla, Fifeshire).—Mr. Fergus and Mr. Wilson, the manager, are absent. We bleach yarn only, and employ 27 men and 45 females; no boys.

1193. Our regular hours of work are from 6 to 6, with 2 hours for meals; on Saturdays we stop at 5. These, with the exception of the Saturday, have been our usual hours of work for the last 20 years. We very rarely make any overtime. It is not always possible to stop at the precise hour of 6, but it seldom varies more than 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour.

1194. In case of some sudden change of weather we require our females to work beyond 6 until the goods are got into a safe condition.

1195. We are sometimes also impeded for a part of the day by the dirtiness of the water in consequence of a sudden thaw or heavy rains, and on these occasions we might possibly wish to go on for an hour or so beyond the regular hours.

1196. We have such a command of hands, and also such extensive works and machinery that we can get through any extra demand upon us in periods of brisk trade without exceeding the regular hours, and doing so would be very exceptional, and only in the drying, where we employ only four females, all the rest (14) is that department being men. On such occasions we could easily dispense with those females.

1197. I believe these are the hours that prevail in all the bleach-works in Fifeshire.

1198. Mr. LANDALE (Messrs D. Landale and Co., Lochty, Kirkcaldy).—We bleach linen and cotton yarn; chiefly linen. We employ about 18 men, 50 to 60 females, and 2 boys.

1199. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6 with 2 hours for meals, and on Saturdays we stop between 4 and 5. We have very rarely any overtime, except when we have a certain quantity of yarn that must be brought forward to its proper state for safety. This may take 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour, seldom half an hour. This may occur at our dinner hour as well as later in the day; but if the people stay on beyond the regular time for such purposes one day, they are repaid by stopping a little earlier the next.

1200. Again we may have a quantity of yarn exposed on the grass ready to take up. We may be apprehensive of a snow storm coming on and we call our workpeople and take it up as quick as we can, working as long as it is light, or possibly later. The power to do this with our females must be allowed us should any Bill pass.

1201. We have about 20 females in the stove under one man. The temperature is about 90° to 95°. They are seldom in it more than 10 minutes at a time. Their duty is just to take in and take out the yarn; they do not operate upon it within the stove, they come out to shake it in a cool air-drying loft. It may take them half an hour to fill and the same to empty the stove; they will then be about half an hour shaking what they have taken out. It is undesirable that the females should be longer at a time in such a heat, and we never allow them to shake the yarn in the stove, as is the case in several bleach-works.

EAST OF SCOTLAND.

1202.—LINEN CLOTH AND LINEN YARN BLEACH WORKS.

	Description of Goods Bleached.	Number of Females employed.			Regular Hours of Work.	Time allowed for Meals.	Females and Boys employed at Night-work.	Temperature of Stoves where Females and Boys employed.
		Men.	Boys.	Females.				
Messrs. Paton & Brown, Pitrecairn, Perth.	Cloth	40	5	14	A.M. P.M. 2 to 8	HOURS. 2	10 females	REG. PAIR.
Mr. Turnbull, Huntingtower, Perth.	Cloth	110	6	48	6 to 9, & 10½; at booting 6 to 6; but when busy, 6 to 8, or 4 to 8.	2	35 females	—
Mr. Spottiswode, Stormont-Field, Perth.	Cloth	55	—	50	6 to 6, occasionally overtime till 9, or 12.	2	Sets of 4 females.	—
Mr. Caird, Crosswell-park, Perth.	Yarn	25	2	12	6 to 6, seldom later.	2	—	—
Carried onward -		231	13	124				

Description of Goods Bleached.	Number of Persons employed.			Regular Hours of Work.	Time allowed for Meals.	Females and Boys employed at Night-work.	Temperature of Stores where Females and Boys employed.
	Males.	Boys.	Females.				
Brought forward - - -	231	13	124	A.M. P.M.	NOTES.	DES. FANES.	
Messrs. Marshall, Sandeman, & Co., Lancaster, Perth.	40	2	40	6 to 6, often 6 to 7.	2	18 females	—
Mr. Homer Sandiman, Tullach, Perth.	36	4	20	6 to 6, frequently overtime.	2	7 females	—
Messrs. Turnbull & Co., Claverhouse, Dundee; Dr. Bease, M.D., resident partner & manager.	90	20	40	6 to 6, winter 6½ to 6¾.	2	—	—
Messrs. Cargill & Co., Dundee	50	10	20	6 to 6	2	—	—
Charles Narry & Sons, Douglasfield, Dundee.	64	8	8	6 to 6	1½, stopping at 2 p.m. on Saturdays.	2 females	—
Mr. John McIntire, Bahrie, Dundee; Mr. Fergus McIntire, partner and manager.	72	6	20	6 to 6	2	—	—
Mr. Dinnia, Panmure Bleachfield, Dundee.	100	40	40	6 to 6, seldom later.	1½	—	—
Messrs. Webster, Soliman, & Co., Wardenmill Bleachfield, Arbroath.	36	4	20	6 to 6, occasionally late.	2	—	—
David Dawson & Co., Arbroath.	22	10	8	6 to 6, seldom later.	2	—	—
Messrs. Abercrombie, Gordon, & Co., Logie, Montrose.	36	10	16	6 to 6	1½, stopping on Saturdays at 2.	4 females sometimes till 10 p.m.	—
Messrs. Richards & Co., Craig, Montrose.	40	40	20	6 to 6	2	2 females occasionally; also 4 boys.	Stove 90° to 100° 8 females.
Messrs. Richards & Co., Bahrie, Aberdeen.	120	20	45	6 to 7, seldom so late.	2	4 boys had taken night act at bestling.	In the stores 6 females occasionally; temperature about 100°.
Messrs. Lamb, Scott, & Co., Brechin.	34	10	16	6 to 6, overtime when trade is good.	2	—	—
East, Mill, & Co., Brechin	47	13	19	6 to 6, overtime when trade is good.	2	—	—
Mr. Pearson's, Balharnie, Mark Inch, Fifeshire.	6	—	20	6 to 6	2	—	—
Mr. Robert Tallies & Co., Rothas, Mark Inch, Fifeshire.	10	2	27	6 to 6	2	—	—
John Fergus, Esq., M.P., & Co., Primrose, Leslie, Fifeshire.	27	—	45	6 to 6	2	—	In the stove 20 females.
Messrs. D. Landale & Co., Lochty, Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire.	16	2	60	6 to 6	2	—	90° to 95°
Total - - - -	1,109	2	618				

YORKSHIRE DYE-WORKS.

WOOL, WOOLLEN CLOTH, STUFFS, SILE, YARN, and MIXED GOODS.

1203. Mr. WILSON SUTCLIFFE, Bradford (Messrs Edward Ripley and Son, Bowling Dye Works).—We dye and finish stuff goods manufactured at Bradford and the neighbourhood, and employ about 400 hands, of whom about 100 are boys under 18, and about a dozen females.

1204. Our regular hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., winter and summer, with one hour for dinner; the people breakfast before they come. On the Saturday we commence at 6, and work till 1, when we close. This has been our practice for about two years. The hours previously were from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals.

1205. We work overhours when the demand requires it. We then begin at 5 or 6, and go on till 8 or 9 o'clock at night, sometimes a little longer. That may last for six or eight weeks together, sometimes a little more. This generally happens in the summer season.

1206. As regards the females and boys who mark the goods and sew the pieces together, we might have to put on a few more hands in a period of pressure, if their time was to be limited to 6 o'clock. The rest of the boys aid in the dyeing and washing processes.

1207. As there is to be no interference with adult male labour, any part of the dyeing process not completed at a stated time can be gone on with by the men.

1208. If boys are prevented going on beyond a stated hour, and we had a press of work, we should have probably to substitute men for it. We should have to take men from some other department, where they would not be required at the moment, and put them to the extra work. We cannot expect that this may not subject us to some inconvenience.

1209. [The dyeing of piece goods, or the manufactured article, is carried on in Yorkshire chiefly at Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and only one large work at Wakefield.]

1210. At Huddersfield the dyeing is chiefly in the skein or wool,—the unmanufactured article.]

1211. Mr. G. ARMITAGE, Bradford.—We dye mixed worsted and cotton goods, and employ when busy about 350 people, of whom about 40 are boys from 12 to 18, and about eight females.

1212. Our usual hours are, when busy, are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with two hours for meals.

1213. The busy time generally extends from April to August.

1214. In winter they do not average more than three full days per week.

1215. If we are placed under restrictions as to the hours of work for females and boys, it would put us to much inconvenience at those busy times; and as we should have to substitute adults for those boys, it would add considerably to the cost of labour. Nevertheless, as all in the trade would be placed upon an equality, it would be better for those who, like myself, do not at present employ so large a proportion of young labour.

1216. Mr. RICHARD WATSON, manager (Mr. Samuel Smith, Worsted and Cotton and Worsted Dye-Works, Bradford).—We employ when busy about 200 people, of whom about 50 are boys between 12 and 18. We do not employ any females.

1217. When trade is good our hours of work in July and August are from 7 a.m. to about 8 and 9 p.m., with two hours off for meals.

1218. For the last two years trade has been slack, and we have made but little overtime; and every year from the middle of January till the end of March there is not much doing.

1219. As adult male labour is not to be interfered with, we shall not care so much about the limitation of hours for boys.

1220. Four fifths of our boys are employed in the singeing, scouring, and washing; a few in the drying place. We could not substitute adult labour for the boys in these places; therefore if we are not allowed to employ them beyond 10 hours a day, the merchants would have to wait a little longer for their goods. To this we should not object, because we frequently have to wait overhours in slack times. The merchants would have to send their goods a little sooner or wait a little longer.

1221. Mr. JOSEPH MOXON KIRK, Halifax.—We are dyers of worsted stuff goods, and worsted mixed with cotton, and silks of all colours and all kinds, made for the Bradford market.

1222. We employ upwards of 200 people, of whom about 20 are boys, and about 10 females.

1223. The usual hours of work are from 6 to 6. Sometimes the merchants want goods at a short notice, and we have to work overtime, seldom later than 8 or 9 o'clock. The boys are principally employed in sewing the marks on the pieces of cloth, and in helping the men in the dyeing processes. The females sew the pieces together, preparatory to their being put into work.

1224. We should have no difficulty, if the hours for females and boys were restricted, in putting on a few more hands, which would enable them to keep up with the men, or get a quantity of work beforehand for the men to go on with.

1225. [Mr. THOS. THOMPSON.—This is one of the largest works of the kind in Yorkshire.]

1226. Messrs. OATS & INGHAM, Halifax.—We are woollen and cotton yarn dyers, and employ about 50 people, of whom only four are boys under 18. Our usual hours are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals. We work overtime occasionally. It would not give us much trouble to dispense with these boys at half past 6. If necessary, we could arrange for that.

1227. Messrs. HOLMES, Halifax.—We are stuff and woollen dyers, and employ from 70 to 80 people, of whom only two are boys and four females. Our hours are from 6 to 6. We dye heavy goods, and do not like employing boys, as the work goes on better without them. Messrs. Crossley are in the same line of business as ourselves.

1228. Mr. JONATHAN SMITH, Halifax.—We dye worsted and woollen, and employ about 150 people, of whom about a dozen are boys, and two females. Our hours of work are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals. If a limitation were to be placed on the hours for boys and females, we should have to employ men for any overtime that we might be called upon to make. It would put us to some inconvenience, but it would be more injurious, in my opinion, to the men, as it would compel us to alter our mode of employing them. We should have to discharge some boys, and take men on instead for the occasional "pushes."

1229. Mr. WATSON, Bradford.—We are "finishers" of the goods manufactured here. We employ about 25 men and two boys, and one female. Any limitation of hours for boys would not affect us. The other establishments in the same branch of business are similar to ours.

1230. Mr. WAINWRIGHT, foreman (Mr. Joseph Houldsworth, Belleisle Dye-Works, Wakefield).—We dye stuffs and woollen cloth, and employ about [300] people, of whom about 18 are boys, and ten females.

1231. The usual hours of work are from 6 to 6; on Saturday we stop at 5, having 1½ hours for meals.

1232. When we are busy these boys and females go on till 8 o'clock, not often later. It is eight months since we made any overtime. The overtime may be for a week or two at a time, and that very seldom. We never like to work the boys longer than we can help. Most of them are from 12 to 14, the rest 15 and 16.

1233. We could not put older lads to this work for the overtime; it is chiefly sewing the ends of the pieces together, before they go through the machinery.

1234. The females also sew the pieces together for the same purpose, and work the same hours as the boys on those occasions. One is about 14, the others 18 to 20 and upwards.

1235. Mr. T. HOBSON, traveller for Mr. Houldsworth.—The cause of the overtime is, that orders come to be executed by a certain day. If all the dyers were put on an equality, and none could work overtime, it would be more easy to accomplish. The merchants would know they must give longer time to execute an order. To some American markets there are ships sailing once a month. If merchants wanted goods by that day, they would have to provide accordingly.

1236. Mr. REEVES, Wool and Woollen Goods Dye-Works, Leeds.—We employ about 150 hands when busy, of whom 20 are boys under 18, and only about six females.

1237. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6, except when very busy we may work from 6 to 12.

1238. The females very seldom work later than 6, but two years ago, when trade was brisk, we went on for nearly a year as late as from 9 to 10 at night.

1239. The demand fluctuates very much, and for the last two years we have had very little overtime.

1240. Sometimes the boys are sent home when we go to a late hour, and we class men as well as we can; that is, we take men who have done at some other part, and put them to the boys' work; some that can be changed in that way.

1241. Men in the dye-works earn, in the regular hours (from 6 to 6, with two hours off for meals), some 16s., some 18s. per week. Boys range from 6s. to 12s. under 15 years of age.

1242. Mr. JOHN BOTTRELL, Leeds.—We dye stuff goods, and employ, when busy, 300 to 400 hands, of whom only about 20 are boys, and half a dozen females.

1243. The demand fluctuates so much, that we are occasionally required to work overtime; but when that is over, we may not, for another period, have employment for the people for the whole day. It would be inconvenient to us to send off the boys precisely at 6 or half past 6, and the probability is, that, should the proposed Act pass, we should dispense with them altogether. As to the females, we should have to employ a few more of them.

1244. This is the largest work of the kind in Leeds.

1244. Mr. JOHN CALVERT & SONS, Leeds.—We dye stuff goods, and employ when busy about 150 hands, of whom, about 20 may be boys under 18, and no females on the works.

1245. Our usual hours of work are from 6 to 6, with one hour and a half for meals, and the same hours on Saturday. We very often work overhours when we are required to do so, by having to execute orders by a certain day; and on those occasions the boys may go up to 8 and 9 o'clock, and sometimes later.

1247. When our trade is very brisk, we sometimes require two sets of hands, boys included, one of which takes the night-work. These boys vary from 13 and 14 years of age, to 16 and 17.

1248. I do not well see at present how we could manage, if this is prevented, without doing away with the boys. We might after a time make some different arrangement, as we should prefer keeping the boys, in order to train them to the business.

1249. Mr. THOS. W. GEORGE & Co., Leeds.—We dye stuff (Breadford) goods exclusively, and employ about 140 hands, of whom about 23 are boys under eighteen, and five females.

1250. The work is so irregular, that it would be very inconvenient to us to be obliged to send off the boys at a stated hour; and as far as this branch of business is concerned at Leeds, I do not think there is any necessity for legislative interference. Frequently these boys work short time, and sometimes long hours, from 6 to half past 9, and occasionally later. In 1853 we were more than usually busy, and went on, sometimes for several weeks together, from 70 to 80 hours per week; and at other times in that year it came down to between 50 and 60.

1251. This is a very healthy occupation, and the overwork is not physically injurious to the boys, unless it should be very long continued.

1252. Mr. J. & W. CHADWICK, Leeds.—We dye wool and woollen cloths. We dye nearly the whole of the blue cloth for the army, and some of the red also.

1253. All dyers in our branch of business require daylight to produce colour. Therefore we do not work overhours, or only rarely, and to a small extent, and only employ two or three boys. The few females in our employ do their work at home.

1254. [The red cloth for the army is dyed at Gomersall, about 12 miles from this, by Messrs. Knowles.]

1255. [Mr. FREDERICK, Wakefield, dyer of wool and worsted yarn, stated he employed only two or three boys, and no females, or only one.]

1256. Mr. HENRY HOLROYD, Leeds.—We dye stuffs (damasks and other kinds), and employ about 100 hands, of whom only about six are boys under 18, and two females.

1257. The six boys are employed at the calendaring machine. We let this work, and the person who manages it has sometimes occasion to employ three of these boys up to 10 at night, and sometimes later. When much pressed (which is very rare), three will begin in the evening, and go on through the night. Two are under 13, and the other four from 14 to 15. When they get a little older they are put to a better job.

1258. If the hours were limited for boys it might put us to some inconvenience, when we wanted younger lads than we now have in the other departments, by way of training them up to the business.

1259. [The number of stuff dye-works in Yorkshire, great and small, does not amount to 30; and in that number some very small ones will be included. There are only six at Leeds. We had a meeting lately of the trade, at which sixteen firms were represented; it was considered that it was a decided majority of the whole trade.]

1260. Mr. SAMUEL ROUTLEDGE (Huddersfield).—I dye cotton warps and cotton yarn, worsted and woollen yarn, and silk.

1261. When we are busy I have employed 100 men. At present I have only from 40 to 50, of whom about 15 are boys. I do not employ females.

1262. Our usual hours are from 8 to 6. We very seldom now have any overtime. If the boys were to be sent off at 6, it would make very little difference to us. I have been engaged in this branch of business many years, and have always preferred to keep as much as possible to the regular hours of work.

1263. Mr. JOHN NICHOLSON, foreman (Mr. Layton's Cotton Yarn and Warp and Silk Dye Works, Huddersfield).—We employ about a dozen men, and only one boy, and no females.

1264. Mr. ISAAC ROSSON, Huddersfield.—I dye cotton and woollen yarn, and employ about 15 men, and five boys.

1265. The usual hours are from 6 to 6, with 1½ for meals.

1266. It may occasionally put us to considerable inconvenience to be obliged to send away these boys at a stated time; and to substitute men, would add to the expense of conducting the business. The work is light and perfectly healthy.

1267. Mr. JOHN SALKELD, Huddersfield.—We dye silk only. We employ no boys or females. The material is too delicate and costly to entrust boys with it. (See § 583.)

1268. This is the only silk dyeing establishment in Huddersfield; there is only one other in the neighbourhood,—Messrs. Brooks', of Meltham Mills, whose establishment is similar to our own.

1269. Mr. JOHN CROWTHER, manager (Mr. W. Shaw, Cotton Yarn Dyer and Bleacher, Huddersfield).—There are six men and four or five boys employed here. Our regular hours are from 6 to 6. When trade is good we make overtime: never all night, but sometimes up to 9 and 10 o'clock, for three or four months together.

1270. If the overwork is required, it ought to be done by men. It is quite long enough for boys to work, from 6 to 6, with two hours off for meals, although the work is light. In winter time, particularly, it is bad for the boys to be so long in these wet and damp places. The overtime comes in winter as well as in summer. The boys are also liable to be employed in the stove, where the yarn is hung to dry, for two or three hours at a time every day. The temperature is about 90°. The boys are taken on at seven or eight years of age. Those we have are nine, 10, 11, and 12.

1271. There are no other dyers or bleachers in Huddersfield than those you have seen.

1272. [Mr. JOHN BURNS, at Brighouse, employs about 30 hands. His is the same business as this. There are in that neighbourhood two or three more very small ones; besides those. I am not aware that there are any more in this part of Yorkshire.]

1273. Mr. BROOKS, Wool Dyer, Huddersfield.—I employ only one boy and no females. I employ about 13 or 14 people.

1274. Mr. EASTWOOD, Dyer and Fuller, Huddersfield.—I dye wool, and employ no boys or females.

WEST OF ENGLAND.

1275. Mr. J. MERRITT (Mr. Joseph Partridge, Woollen and Cloth Dyer, Stroud).—We employ no females or boys. The work requires greater strength than either females or boys possess.

1276. The other dyers in this neighbourhood, not connected with factories, are Mr. Gyde, Mr. Farrer, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Gayner. These are all in the same line of business as ourselves.

1277. There are two dyers at Wootton-under-Edge, Wm. White and Co., and Mr. Strange. They dye the same kind of goods as ourselves, and I am quite sure they do not employ either boys or females.

1278. These are the only public dyers, i. e., dyers on commission, in Gloucestershire. [The rest dye their own goods, and are under the Factory Act.]

1279. There is no bleaching carried on in this county.

1280. Mr. C. WEBB SMITH (Messrs. Christopher Smith and Co., Stroud).—We dye wool and woollen cloth, and do not employ females or boys. This is the general practice of the trade in the West of England.

1281. Mr. GYDE, Stroud.—I dye wool and woollen cloth, and do not employ females or boys.

1282. Mr. WM. WENNER, Trowbridge.—We dye wool only. We employ no females, only a boy or two, and their hours are only 10 a day. This is the general habit in the counties of Wilts, Somerset, and Gloucester.

1283. FREDERICK EYRE, foreman (Mr. Moore's Dye-Works, Trowbridge).—We do not employ females, and only one boy of about 15.

1284. Messrs. Timbrell Moore, at Bradford (Wilts), do not employ any boys or any females. Mr. Moore is my master's son.

1285. The only other dye-works at Trowbridge is Mr. Clark's, and he is like ourselves, and does not employ females or boys.

1286. Mr. PARISE, Frome.—I dye wool. It is very heavy work. I employ no boys, only about 20 men.

1287. The only other dye-works not connected with a factory in Frome is Mr. Bull's, and he employs only three men.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, &c.

HOSIERY AND LACE TRADE.

1288. Mr. J. P. BORTON, Silk Lace Dresser (Finisher).—We employ about 70 females; their occupation is superintending the dressing (finishing) frames. Our usual hours are from 8 to 6. Occasionally, when an extra demand arises, we have to go on from one to three or four hours extra. This is the extreme. This will occur sometimes for a week together, in the spring particularly. We have no boys. We dye and scour also, but employ no boys or females at that.

1289. As a general rule, machinery is not employed in this branch of business. The lace is sent to the dressers from the manufacturer. It is a separate business entirely. I have only two "progressing" frames, which are turned by machinery, and there are none other in the town. They employ about 14 females.

1290. The case of the Nottingham lace makers and dressers was considered at the inquiry relating to the Factories, and it was not deemed necessary to include them.

1291. The work for these females is very light, and the temperature only from 70° to 80°. Our dressing-room covers an acre and a half of ground. It is 355 feet long, 201 wide, and upwards of 20 feet high, and thoroughly ventilated.

1292. The overhours only occur occasionally in the spring, and not much at other times of the year; and our establishment is so large as to give us greatly increased means to execute large orders in a very short time.

1293. In consequence of the trade being a fancy trade and so fluctuating, there are times of depression when we are not more than half employed; that may continue for weeks together.

1294. If the females were to be placed under restrictions as to hours, we should have to keep more of them permanently, and still further increase the means of executing orders when required; and as upon the whole it is a limited trade, capital so employed would not be productive.

1295. The females generally earn from 5s. to 10s. a week; a few from 12s. to 14s.

1296. Mr. TESSBURN, Hosiery Bleach-Works, Bedford, Nottingham.—We bleach and finish hosiery (stockings, shirts, and pantaloons), which are manufactured in the villages of this county, and Leicestershire, and Derbyshire. The whole of the bleaching for these goods is done in this village; and in one bleaching-yard (Mr. Ramsay's) at Lenton.

1297. We employ about 130 hands, of whom 51 are females, and eight boys.

1298. In the bleaching department there are no boys below 18.

1299. The females and boys are employed in "getting up" the hosiery after it is bleached. No steam machinery is employed in this process. It consists simply of stretching, to bring them into proper shape, and ironing.

1300. The hours of work for these females and boys are regulated by their union; it is all piece-work, and they generally get through their day's work in the bleaching department between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m., and in the finishing department between 8 a.m. and 4, 5, or 6 p.m. They are very seldom later than those hours.

1301. Messrs. BURTON & RAMSEY, Bedford, Nottingham.—We bleach and finish hosiery, and bleach lace. The hosiery is manufactured in various parts of the town and county, and sent to us to bleach, &c.

1302. In the bleaching department we employ no females or boys.

1303. In the finishing department we employ about 50 females. They are employed principally in ironing and mending hosiery. The boys in this department are employed in turning and tacking hosiery. It is done in rooms similar to those that may be in any private dwelling. It is in the nature of mere domestic work. No steam machinery is employed, nothing more than the needle used in the hand. Machinery cannot be employed in this kind of work. We have about 130 people here altogether. The hours of the bleachers by their own regulation are from April to September from 6 to 6, the rest of the year from 7 to 7, and never work past 8. We acceded to this regulation of theirs voluntarily, as we think it quite long enough. We used to be pressed by the manufacturers to get through work by working through the night, until the men adopted their regulation, about four years ago. We told the manufacturers that they must conform to this, and give us more time, and we have found no difficulty in their doing so.

1304. At Lenton we finish Angola goods, and the hours are the same as for finishers; from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in summer, with two hours for meals, and from 7 to 7 the rest of the year. They rarely make any overtime, and never after 9.

1305. Mr. COX (Cox and Cartledge, Nottingham).—We bleach and print hosiery, and bleach lace. In the bleaching we employ only men, and in the finishing we have no steam machinery whatever. This is universal throughout the trade.

1306. We raise the nap of merino by machinery, but all who do this are already under the Factory Act in that department.

1307. Mr. MILNER, Bedford, Nottingham.—We bleach and finish hosiery, and lace and cotton goods. In the bleaching we employ no boys or females. In the finishing department we have no steam machinery.

1308. As regards the raising the nap of the merino goods (brushing), we are already under the Factory Act.

1309. We employ about 120 people altogether.

1310. The three or four other works in the same line of business (besides those you have already visited), are conducted in the same manner as this; they are not extensive works.

1311. Messrs. G. & F. B. BAKER, Nottingham.—We dye and dress silk lace. We employ in the dyeing department no females or boys, and in the dressing department no steam machinery.

1312. Mr. Bottom's establishment and ours are the largest in the silk department in this line of business, and all the others are conducted in a similar manner to our own. Steam machinery cannot be used for our processes. It is purely hand-work.

1313. Messrs. J. & W. LAMBERT, Nottingham.—We dress silk and cotton lace, but we employ no steam machinery for those purposes. This is nearly the largest establishment in the trade, and all are alike in this respect.

1314. The cotton goods are all bleached at Basford and the neighbourhood. The scouring (or dressing) of the silk is done by ourselves. In our dyeing department there are only men.

1315. We employ, when busy, about people altogether.

1316. The other principal employers in this line of business are Mr. Bottom, Mr. Baker, Mr. Thornley, Mr. Bradbury, Messrs. Spencer & Harrison, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Page, Mr. Webster, Mrs. Eden, Mr. Dobson, Mr. Wagstaff. There are only three or four others, which are smaller ones. The processes in all these are precisely similar to ours and those which you have seen.

1317. Mr. KIMLEY (Nottingham).—We dye skein silk, skein cotton, cotton stockings, cotton and silk lace and laces (broad and narrow). We dye for the manufacturers of hosiery and lace. We employ no steam machinery where boys or females are engaged. This is the case with all the dye works in Nottingham, and also in all the dyeing establishments of Macclesfield, Manchester, Coventry, Derby, and Leek, for the same kind of goods. I have been thirty years in the business, and the majority of the dyeing establishments in Nottingham are offshoots of this. I employ about 120 people when busy. The hours are from 6 to 6, taking two hours off for meals. Whatever overtime they work they are paid for. The boys seldom are kept overtime, and then not more than an hour a day on an average.

1318. The nature of this business does not require boys or females where machinery is employed.

1319. There is no weaving done in the town or county of Nottingham. We dye for the manufacturers of hosiery and lace only.

1320. In lace dressing and dyeing there is nothing like working females and boys against machinery. Therefore in any act that should be passed limiting the hours for females and boys, the hosiery and lace trades ought to be specially exempted. The lace trade is almost exclusively confined to Nottingham and the county.

1321. The hosiery trade is scattered over Leicestershire, Nottingham, and Derbyshire. The bleaching for these is principally confined to Nottingham and the county.

1322. The dyeing for hosiery is done at Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester; and in Derby and Leicester it is carried on as it is here.

1323. The cotton "doubling" factories (making fine twist cotton for lace makers) are already under the Factory Act.

1324. Mr. THOS. WINDLEY, Nottingham.—We dye silk and cotton for the hosiery and lace trade; but we employ no boys under 18 in connexion with any machinery, and no females are employed about the dyeing at all. Mr. Keeley and myself are the two principal dyers in this business, and the only two who employ steam machinery at all.

1325. Mr. AMORY HEATHCOAT, Tiverton.—We manufacture silk and cotton net (lace), and employ about 1250 people. Of these 60 females are employed in the dressing rooms. Their hours of work are from 5 to 6, with one and a half for meals, and two intervals of 20 minutes for rest. These are the usual hours throughout the year, with the exception of from 6 to 10 weeks during our busy season, when they begin work sometimes at 5, and go on till 9, with those intervals, and half an hour for tea besides.

1326. We only employ in that room grown up females. The temperature varies from 80° to 85°, and it is a rare exception to have it higher. The heat is dry, and the ventilation excellent; there is nothing oppressive in the state of the room or in the work, which is very light work. The nature of the demand for these articles of lace is such, that the females will be only employed half their time in work. This cannot be avoided. The work is all by the piece, and the wages vary from 5s. in these slack times to 15s. or 16s. when they work overtime.

1327. We employ no females or boys in the bleaching.

1323. The rest of our people, male and female, are employed in the various processes of the manufacture, and the young among them are never employed beyond the usual hours. If overwork is required, it is done by the men.

1323. In the finishing department, besides the females in the dressing room, we occasionally employ others a few hours overtime, but quite exceptionally, to meet any sudden order. We are subject to competition with the persons of the same trade at Nottingham; and if they can execute an order by working overhours, they would deprive us of it, especially as they are at the seat of the lace trade.

1330. About 35 years ago, Mr. Heathcote transferred his business to this place from Loughborough, in consequence of the Luddite riots in which his machinery was destroyed. At that time the manufacturing trade in woollens at Tiverton had very nearly died out. It scarcely exists now; there is but one left, employing but few hands, and selling also by retail. This mill was then empty. It has since been greatly enlarged, and we now employ the large number of persons (1250) above stated. It is nearly the only place of manufacture in the town. The population has greatly increased since that time, and the poor-rates have very much diminished. The population now is about 11,000.*

1331. At the time of the inquiry which resulted in the passing of the Factory Act, the case of the lace trade was inquired into, and that trade was exempted.

1332. If we are placed under the proposed Act for limiting the hours of labour for females and boys in bleaching, finishing, and dyeing establishments, the anomaly will exist of 60 or 70 of our females being under the Act (none of our boys will come under it), and about 1200 hands being exempt.

1333. If we should be placed under the Act, we should either discontinue the finishing portion altogether, or put up additional accommodation at considerable cost.

1334. [The manufacturing and the finishing processes here go on upon the same establishment, the first by machinery, the latter by hand only. The only other establishments of this kind in the West of England, at Chard and Barnstaple, send their goods to Nottingham to be bleached and finished.]

(Referred to in § 243.)

1335. Letter from Mr. R. PEARCE to H. SEYMOUR TREMENNICK, Esq.

Committee Room, Bridge Inn, Bolton.

26th May 1855.

SIR,

JOHN WARING went to Mr. Ridgway Bridson's establishment last night about 9 o'clock, and sent for the foreman of the clamping room to ascertain if the statement made by him to you (at the latter end of February) was correct, concerning the boys at the clamping engines. He (Wright Mathers) said the statement made by himself would bear the strictest scrutiny and could be clearly proved. It was 9 o'clock at night when John Waring saw him, and at that hour the room was 130 degrees by the glass. He was as pale as a corpse, and his trousers were wet through with sweat, and he had to work in that state along with females and boys some hours more. They have to work in that heat the hours stated by him, 16, 17, and 18, with only time for meals. The heat frequently reaches 160 degrees during the middle of the day, and continues that height for hours together.

This is the statement made by Wright Mather, foreman of the clamping room, at Mr. Bridson's, to John Waring.

I beg leave to remain

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD PEARCE, Secretary.

NORWICH.

1336. Messrs. STARR & Co. (Norwich).—We dye silk, cotton, and worsted. We are general dyers and dressers, and employ when busy from 50 to 60 people, of whom only one or two are boys. Our hours of work are generally from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals.

* "The woollen manufacture of Tiverton, and other towns in the West of England, commenced shortly after the year 1351, when Edward III. removed the mart of English wool from Flanders to this country.

"In 1391, the population, augmented by many industrious persons who were driven from the Low Countries by the tyranny of Spain, amounted to 3,000.

"In 1612, when the whole town was burnt, the population was 8,000. The contributions under the 'brief' of James I. enabled it to be rebuilt, and its trade revived.

"In 1715, the population was 8,700.

"About the year 1743, the staple manufacture of Tiverton began to be supplanted in the markets of Holland by the Norwich 'stuffs,' and other woollens, and the poor frequently wanted employ. The evil was heightened by contentions, which frequently occasioned riots and tumults, prevented the execution of orders at seasonable times, and proved very injurious to the trade."

Dunford's History of Tiverton.
The rise of competing manufactures in the West of England, and subsequently in Yorkshire, have by degrees caused the almost entire disappearance of the woollen trade from this town.

1337. There is no bleaching done at Norwich.

1338. Mr. GEDGE and myself are the only two dyers in Norwich who employ machinery.

1339. Mr. GEDGE, Norwich.—We are general dyers and finishers of silk and worsted goods, and employ about 80 men and one or two boys. Our hours are from 6 to 6, with two hours for meals.

1340. Mr. HOWE, hot pressing establishment, Norwich.—We do not use steam machinery. None is used in this kind of work. It is pressing silks, cottons, and worsteds.

1341. Mr. BARKER, Norwich.—I am a hot presser and general dresser of silk and worsted goods. Steam machinery is not employed in our kind of work. There is no other kind of finishing of woven goods done in Norwich, distinct from manufacturing (which is under the Factory Act), except by the dyers and hot pressers.

1342. Messrs. GUINAND & Co., Spitalfields.—We are silk dressers and finishers: we have steam machinery for that purpose, but we do not employ females or boys. Messrs. Archer & Perry, and Messrs. Stanbridge & Co. are also in the same line of business in a larger way, and employ neither females nor boys. Our hours are from 6 to 6, and in winter from 7 to 7.

1343. Mr. PEARSON, shewn silk dyer, Bethnal Green.—We employ about 28 men, and 10 boys. We have no steam machinery. This is about the largest dyeing establishment for coloured silks in Spitalfields. There is no branch of business in the silk line that requires females or boys to work against machinery.

1344. THEODORE ELVES, foreman (Mr. Drevon, silk dyer).—We dye shewn silk only, and employ about 30 men, and four boys. The usual hours are from 6½ to 7, and very seldom beyond that. We have four women employed in getting up the silk to send home. Men's hours are from 7 to 7, and very seldom later. No machinery is employed about that, and the only machinery we have here is the hydro-extractors and rollers, but the boys are not employed about the machinery at all.

1345. Mr. SMITH (Messrs. Frith & Smith, silk dressers, Spitalfields).—We are silk dressers and finishers, and employ about 15 people, of whom three or four are under 18. We employ steam machinery for calendaring. Our hours are from 7 to 7. Sometimes we go on beyond that, but we do not like working overhours, and seldom go beyond a couple of hours. The only other silk dresser in our line is Mr. Henderson, who employs about the same number of people, in the same manner as we do. Messrs. Archer & Perry, and Messrs. Stanbridge, are the two other silk dressers of satin, and do not employ boys or females.

1346. Mr. ARCHER (Messrs. Archer, Perry, & Archer).—We are the largest employers in the business of satin dressing and embossing in Spitalfields. We employ no females or boys. Mr. Stanbridge is in the same line, and employs no females or boys.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX A.

SIR,

Manchester, July 8th, 1854.

At a meeting of the master bleachers of Lancashire and Cheshire held to-day in this city, it was unanimously resolved to memorialize Lord Palmerston upon the subject of the Operative Bleachers' Short Time Bill, lately introduced into the House of Lords by the Earl of Shaftesbury.

I take the liberty of sending you the annexed copy of the memorial which will be presented to Lord Palmerston in a day or two, and to request you will have the goodness to promote the object of the memorialists as much as possible, as it involves most materially the welfare not only of the master bleachers but also of the operatives themselves.

I have, &c.

J. H. AINSWORTH,
Chairman of the Bleachers' Association.

To the Right Honourable Lord Palmerston, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

* The Memorial of the undersigned Master Bleachers and Finishers of Cotton Cloth,

Showeth, That your memorialists, whose works are situate in the vicinity of Manchester and Bolton, the principal locality in England where the trade of bleaching and finishing is carried on, have heard that your Lordship lately had an interview with a deputation from the committee of the operative bleachers and finishers who are desirous that a ten hours' Bill applicable to bleach-works shall be passed.

That your memorialists and the master bleachers generally are most decidedly opposed to such a measure, being satisfied that the immense property and capital necessarily employed in the trade would be seriously injured, and that injury and loss would also be sustained by the work-people.

That the application of a ten hours' Bill to our works would increase the cost of bleaching and finishing, and as it is now only by the greatest care, industry, and skill, that we are enabled to compete with those countries (such as America, India, China, Holland, and Germany) which are at present the great markets for our labour, your memorialists feel satisfied that the passing of this Bill would cause a great part of their business to be transferred to other countries, and that two millions of capital now employed would be injuriously affected.

That the trade of bleaching and finishing is difficult to manage, and it differs from other branches of the cotton trade in this,—that the supply of goods to be bleached fluctuates, and during some portions of the year we are only partially employed, whilst at other times we have more work to do than could be accomplished if the hours of labour were restricted.

That your memorialists are satisfied that the irregularity in the supply of cloth to be bleached and finished cannot be remedied in the way the promoters of this Bill seem to anticipate.

That your memorialists deem it a matter of the greatest importance to remind your Lordship that the application of a ten hours' Bill was considered by Government at the time the Printers' Bill was under consideration, in which Bill it was intended that bleach-works should be included, but when the case was fairly laid before Sir James Graham, the then Secretary for the Home Department, bleach-works were omitted.

That your memorialists do not doubt that on inquiry your Lordship will find that the operative bleachers and finishers are amply remunerated for their labour, and are a healthy and hardy class of people. From the evidence of the most respectable medical practitioners, and the sick and burial societies, it is clear that the mortality in this branch of the cotton trade is lighter than in any other.

That the forbidding by Act of Parliament the employment of children under ten years of age in bleach-works is needless, as they are not required.

That your memorialists humbly hope that your Lordship will not suffer this Bill to pass into a law.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

APPENDIX B.

(Copy)

† To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Clergymen and Members of the Medical Profession of the Borough of Manchester and Salford in the County of Lancaster.

Showeth, That your Petitioners have long known with regret, that it is customary in the several bleaching, finishing, and dyeing establishments in the United Kingdom for females

* Referred to in §§ 29 to 41 of the Evidence.

† Referred to at p. viii. of Report.

and young persons to labour for 14, 16, 18, and 20 hours per day, and frequently for days and nights consecutively, without intermission except for meals.

That such a system is attended by most injurious consequences to those unhappily subjected to it, as, in addition to the unwholesome atmosphere pervading such establishments, they are virtually prohibited from being brought within the circle of those influences which give a healthy tone to the intellectual nature of man.

That your Petitioners understand that a Bill is before your Honourable House to restrict the labour of females and young persons employed in bleaching, finishing, and dyeing establishments to 10½ hours per day.

That your Petitioners are justified by their own experience in declaring that such a measure would be a wise and beneficial one, and has long been highly necessary.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to pass it into law.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

MANCHESTER.

C. D. Wray, Canon of Manchester.
 Samuel Warren, LL.D.
 J. P. Pitsom, Rector of Longsight.
 William Robert Stephens, Longsight.
 William Whitworth, M.A. Minister of St. Jude's.
 Daniel Noble, M.D.
 Peter Royle, Surgeon.
 William Doyle, R.A.
 Joseph Moss Kirkman, Surgeon.
 R. T. Hunt, M.R.C.S., Eng.
 George Greaver, M.R.C.S., Eng.
 James D. Brockhurst, Wesleyan Minister.
 Samuel Crompton, Surgeon.
 George Bellamy Martin, Surgeon.
 E. Davison, Surgeon.
 W. Wynn, Surgeon.
 Farquhar Milne, M.R.C.S., L.A.S.
 M. Heckrober, M.D.
 W. C. Williamson, M.R.C.S.L., F.R.S.
 John Hutton, F.R.C.S.
 Thomas H. Watts, M.D.
 Ralph Heathcote, Surgeon.
 John Windsor, F.R.C.S., &c.
 Ralph W. Ledward, Surgeon.
 J. Ogden Fletcher, Surgeon.
 Henry Reid, M.D.
 Joseph Barnise, Surgeon.
 Charles James Rix, Surgeon.
 Thomas W. Dryden.
 George Morley Harrison.
 Robert Walker, M.D.
 John Raine, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.
 William Roberts, M.D. and C.
 Alexander McAuley, Wesleyan Minister.
 Benjamin Wood, Baptist Minister.
 James Sutcliffe, Independent Minister.
 Charles Burton, LL.D.
 Wm. W. Beaver, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.
 James L. Yardley, Esq. M.D.
 Joseph Stead, Surgeon.
 George James Knapp, Surgeon.
 Ethbert Simpson, Veterinary Surgeon.
 George Gibson Downe, Surgeon.
 Charles Clay, M.D.
 Alexander Wilson, M.D.
 Samuel Vaughan, Clergyman.
 William Leas, M.R.C.S., Eng.
 George William Pethinger, M.R.S.C. and L.S.A.
 George Pethinger, M.D.
 James Robb, L.R.C.S.E., L.A.C.L.
 Thomas Wild, M.R.C.S. Eng., and L.S.A.
 John Smith, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.
 Samuel Whitlow, M.R.C.S. Eng.

SALFORD.

Hugh Stowell, M.A. Hon. Canon of Chester, &c.
 Patrick Charles Nicholson, B.D., Domestic Chaplain to Lord Carlisle.
 Ephraim Harper, R.A. St. Saviour's Parish, Salford.
 John Edmund Ledgwick, St. Simon's.
 J. N. Pocklington, Curate of Trinity Church.
 John Marshall, Curate of St. Philip's Church.
 George Taylor, Minister of Irwell Street Chapel.
 James Macpherson, Minister of King Street Chapel.
 George Smith, Primitive Methodist Minister.
 George W. Guest, B.A., Curate of St. Stephen's.
 J. E. Booth, M.A., Incumbent of St. Stephen's.
 Thomas Hocking, Wesleyan Association Minister.
 Edward Jones, Minister of Gravel Lane.
 William Illingworth, Minister of Brunswick Chapel.
 Thomas C. Ire, Minister of New Windsor Chapel.
 Henry W. McGrath, M.A. Rector of St. Pauls, Rensal.
 D. Howarth, Bolton Street Chapel.
 James Moore, Minister of St. Bartholomew's.
 Benjamin Town, Curate of ditto.
 Edward Watker, M.A., Incumbent of St. Matthias Church.
 Frank B. Wright, M.A., Rector of St. John Broughton.
 David Everard Ford, Richmond Chapel.
 Owen Jones.
 William Jenson, M.D.
 Thomas B. Holland, M.R.C.S. Eng.
 Francis H. Wainman, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.
 William Hall, M.R.C.S. Eng.
 George Southam, F.R.C.S.
 Joseph Crighton, M.D.
 G. H. Bowers, D.D., Dean of Manchester.
 Thomas F. Brownell, F.R.C.S.
 George Gardow, Surgeon.
 Joseph Teale, M.R.C.S. Eng.
 John Stack Steel, Surgeon.
 Mark Oliver Larnath, M.R.C.S. Eng.
 L.S.A. Lar & Co.
 Thomas Middleton, F.R.C.S.
 Alexander Somers, F.R.C.S.
 William Crosby, M.R.C.S. L.S.A.
 William Hopkinson, Surgeon Dentist.
 William Holt, M.R.C.S.

MANCHESTER—cont.

George Cochran, M.R.C.S.
 T. J. Wilkinson, Surgeon.
 James Wilson, Surgeon.
 R. H. Henthote, Surgeon.
 L. Bomberds, M.D.
 John Wait, Surgeon.
 J. N. W. Wainright, M.D.
 Joshua Barlow, Surgeon.
 Job Sheppard Fletcher, Surgeon.
 James Jerrill Cooke, M.R.C.S., Esq.
 Joseph C. Poston, M.R.C.S., Esq.
 Henry Swift, Surgeon.
 John Gregory Harrison, M.D., F.R.C.P.E.
 John McDowall, M.D.
 Edward Siddbottom, Surgeon.
 James Bardsley, M.A., Clerk.
 Andrew Inglis, Minister of Chalmers Pres-
 byterian Church.
 James G. Mallinson, Clergyman.
 Charles Thompson, Surgeon.
 W. Skinner, Surgeon.
 W. Leighton Jeffries, B.A., Incumbent of
 St. Clement's.

SALFORD—cont.

Ralph Milner, Surgeon.
 Alexander Stocks, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.
 W. Henry Horn, Surgeon. &c.
 Edward Watson, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.
 John H. Askwith, Surgeon.
 J. B. Wood, M.D.
 James Miller, Surgeon, &c.
 James S. Harrison, F.R.C.S., &c.
 J. D. Carew, M.R.C.S. and L.A.C.
 Thomas Heywood, M.R.C.S. Eng.
 Edward Billet Birks, L.S.A.
 James Flammang, M.R.C.S.
 John Brown, Surgeon, &c.
 Daniel Lynch, M.R.C.S. Eng.

APPENDIX C.

TABLE showing the number of days' wages (calculated to be earned in about eight hours) made in one of the principal bleach-works in the neighbourhood of Bolton, by each set of work-people employed, beyond or below the number of the working days in each month.

Number of Working Days embraced.	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	—
Set, 1854.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average.
	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Unloaders	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	24
Readers	21½	20½	27½	22½	22	24½	22	22½	27	28½	27	27½	25½
Dressers	24	24½	41½	28½	29½	47	35½	44	41½	22½	28	22	28½
Bowlers (bolting)	22½	21	49½	29½	29½	44	37½	43	42	22½	24½	22	28½
Crofters, No. 1, set	22½	40½	49	24	20	22	41	40½	40½	24½	25	22	40½
" Wheelers	22	27½	27½	28	25	42½	33½	39	41	20½	21	44	37½
" Tubbers	29	26½	39½	35½	29½	44½	37½	41½	42½	25½	24½	48½	27½
" Huggers	22½	22½	44	25	20	45	35½	32½	28	25½	20½	40½	25½
" No. 4, set	22½	22½	43½	24½	27½	33	35½	35½	39	20½	22½	43	26½
" White washers	22½	27	35½	25½	28	39½	35	37½	40	27½	20½	43	22½
" Squeezers	22½	24½	40½	22	22½	46½	39	41	45	20½	22½	45½	27½
White mangles	21½	24½	26½	29	20½	33	44½	44	22	20½	40½	47½	26½
Dye-ditto	17	26½	46	22	24	31½	20	31½	28	25	22½	22½	21½
Rovers	17	22	44½	22	21	29	29	29	29	29	29	24½	21½
Scovers	24½	22½	25½	27½	26½	22	22½	26	44½	22½	22½	41	26½
Peters	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	24	24	20	24
Calico Packers	24½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	40	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½
Calendar set	22½	22½	41½	26½	24½	26	22	28	48	26	22½	40	24½
Maken up	22½	42	22½	26½	27½	22½	41	22½	40½	27	25	42½	29½
Shedding Packers	22½	22½	45½	22	20	21	22	21½	27½	27	22	24	22½
Sorters	22	22	27½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½	22½
Close Mangles	22	22½	22½	45	42½	42½	22½	22½	22½	42	44	44½	42½
Couriers	22	22	22	24	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Dyers	22	22	22	24	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
Back ditto	22½	27	22½	21	21	22	22	22	22½	22½	22	22	22
Stitchers	22	22	20	22	24	22	22	22	22	4	22	22	22

The prices paid by the piece are calculated to enable the worker to earn a day's wage within eight hours, wherever skill or much strength is required. The prices were adopted in 1833, and the improvements for facilitating labour, have been given to the work-people to a great degree, so that now, by reason of those improvements, the same amount of work is done in less time and with less labour in many of the operations and processes than when the list of prices was adopted.

APPENDIX D.

* MESSRS DU FAY & CO., TRADE REPORT, MANCHESTER.

Comparative Statement of the Prices of Raw Cotton, Cotton Twist, Power-Loom Cloths, Wheat, and the Rates of Discount, &c., &c., from 1846 to 1854.

Years -	1845.												1847.											
Months -	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cotton, Upland Bowed, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Upland Bowed, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Pernambuco, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Pernambuco, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
No. 40, single yarn (quality A), per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
No. 30, water twist (quality A), per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
5 power-loom cloths, 12 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
40 inches power-loom cloth, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
40 inches power-loom cloth, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average price of wheat per quarter.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Rates of discount for accommodation bills.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average circulation of the Bank of England, in millions of pounds.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average amount of business in the Bank, in millions of pounds.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Declared value of the exports of cotton manufactures.	41,211,750												41,211,750											
Declared value of the exports of cotton yarn.	41,211,750												41,211,750											

Years -	1848.												1849.											
Months -	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cotton, Upland Bowed, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Upland Bowed, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Pernambuco, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Ditto, Pernambuco, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
No. 40, single yarn (quality A), per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
No. 30, water twist (quality A), per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
5 power-loom cloths, 12 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
40 inches power-loom cloth, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
40 inches power-loom cloth, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average price of wheat per quarter.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Rates of discount for accommodation bills.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average circulation of the Bank of England, in millions of pounds.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Average amount of business in the Bank, in millions of pounds.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74	74
Declared value of the exports of cotton manufactures.	41,211,750												41,211,750											
Declared value of the exports of cotton yarn.	41,211,750												41,211,750											

* Referred to as p. xii. of Report.

Years	1850.												1851.											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cotton, Upland, Newed, fair, per lb.	41	41	47	47	51	51	51	54	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Do., Upland, Newed, good fair, per lb.	7	7	41	51	51	51	51	54	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Do., Peruvian, fair, per lb.	47	7	41	7	51	51	51	54	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Do., Peruvian, good fair, per lb.	71	71	51	51	51	51	51	54	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
No. 40, wide yarn (quad. A.) per lb.	10	41	41	50	50	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	56	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
No. 20, water twist (quad. A.) per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
40 inches power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
40 inches power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Average price of wheat per quarter.	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Rate of discount for mercantile bills.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Average circulation of the Bank of England, in millions of pounds.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average amount of business in the Bank, in millions of pounds.	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Declared value of the exports of cotton manufactures.	\$1,371,000.												\$1,367,000.											
Declared value of the exports of cotton goods.	\$6,250,000.												\$6,250,000.											

Years	1852.												1853.											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cotton, Upland, Newed, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Do., Upland, Newed, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Do., Peruvian, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Do., Peruvian, good fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
No. 40, wide yarn (quad. A.) per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
No. 20, water twist (quad. A.) per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
40 inches power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
40 inches power loom cloth, 21 reeds, 36 to 40 yards, per piece.	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
Average price of wheat per quarter.	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Rate of discount for mercantile bills.	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Average circulation of the Bank of England, in millions of pounds.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average amount of business in the Bank, in millions of pounds.	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
Declared value of the exports of cotton manufactures.	\$1,371,000.												\$1,371,000.											
Declared value of the exports of cotton goods.	\$6,250,000.												\$6,250,000.											

Year - - Months - -	1854.												1855.											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Cotton, Upland Royal, fair, per lb.	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41
Edna, Upland Royal, good fair, per lb.	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Edna, Pernambuco, fair, per lb.	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Edna, Pernambuco, good, fair, per lb.	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
No. 40, male yarn (good, A.), per lb.	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
No. 20, male yarn (good, A.), per lb.	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
5 Power Loom cloth, 75 reeds, 50 yards, per piece.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
40 Power Loom cloth, 60 reeds, 50 to 60 yards, per piece.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
40 Power Loom cloth, 50 reeds, 50 to 60 yards, per piece.	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Average prices of wheat per quarter.	70	65	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Ratio of discount for unmarketable bills.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Average circulation of the Bank of England, in millions of pounds.	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Average amount of business in the Bank, in millions of pounds.	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Declared value of the exports of cotton manufactures.																								
Declared value of the imports of cotton yarn.																								